

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

PROPOSED LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION (LCD) LANGUAGE RELATING TO LABORATORY ACCREDITATION AND PHYSICIAN AND SONOGRAPHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR TRANSTHORACIC ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

April 27, 2005

The accuracy of a transthoracic echocardiogram depends on the knowledge, skill, and experience of both the individual performing the study and the physician interpreting the study. For this reason, a transthoracic echocardiogram must:

(a) be performed in a laboratory that is accredited in transthoracic echocardiography by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories and interpreted by a physician who is subject to the quality assurance program established by that laboratory; or

(b) meet all of the following requirements:

(i) performed by a physician with Level II training in transthoracic echocardiography, or the equivalent, as defined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association/American College of Physicians Task Force on Clinical Competence in Echocardiography, or by an individual who is credentialed as a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers or as a Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) through the Cardiovascular Credentialing International, working under the general supervision of a physician who meets the qualifications stated above; and

(ii) interpreted by a physician who has Level II training in transthoracic echocardiography, or the equivalent, as defined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association/ American College of Physicians Task Force on Clinical Competence in Echocardiography.

These requirements shall become effective *[two years from the date of the notice.]*