## Guidance for Triage of Non-Emergent Outpatient Transthoracic Echocardiograms During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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| **Tier 1a** | Low acuity TTE/asymptomatic patient             | Results will not affect short-term treatment or outcome                              | • All routine surveillance without change in clinical status, e.g., severe valve disease, prosthetic valves, aortic disease, or cardiomyopathy  
• Asymptomatic, abnormal ECG        | Postpone study                                                                   |
| **Tier 1b** | Low acuity TTE/symptomatic patient             | Results will not affect short-term treatment or outcome                              | • Syncope, low suspicion cardiac cause  
• New onset atrial fibrillation, asymptomatic  
• Pre-solid organ (non-urgent) transplant | Postpone study                                                                   |
| **Tier 2a** | Intermediate acuity TTE/asymptomatic patient    | Results will affect medium-term treatment or outcome                                 | • Newly discovered murmur with need for urgent non-cardiac surgery  
• Follow-up severe VHD without symptoms  
• Follow-up RV function post PE; LV function post Takotsubo; pericardial effusion | Expert consultation*/consider need for study vs. postpone |
| **Tier 2b** | Intermediate acuity TTE/symptomatic patient     | Results will affect medium-term treatment or outcome                                 | • Known heart or lung disease with new symptoms  
• HFrEF where EF determines medical or device therapy  
• Evaluation post OHT e.g., rejection | Expert consultation*/do not postpone study                                           |
| **Tier 3**  | High acuity TTE/symptomatic or asymptomatic patient | Results will affect short-term treatment or outcome                                 | • New symptoms c/w significant cardiopulmonary disease  
• Echo needed for continuation of chemotherapy  
• Concern for significant pericardial effusion/tamponade | Do not postpone                                                                  |

*Expert consultation refers to review by an echocardiography attending physician, and discussion with the referring health care professional if needed.*
Adapted from the American College of Surgeons Elective Surgery Acuity Scale (ESAS), authored by Sameer Siddiqui M.D., with permission.

References
