

# **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY**

ASE would like to encourage the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems, while noting areas of concern related to creation and implementation of this technology, in order to better guide the field and its development.

## Common Terminology

Standard definitions for AI in healthcare are needed to foster innovation and improve patient care. ASE advocates for clear distinctions between assistive, augmentative, and autonomous categories of care. Common terminology will help patients and clinicians understand coverage and reimbursement. ASE supports the AMA CPT<sup>®</sup> Editorial Panel's AI taxonomy for medical services and procedures.

Service Components	Al Catagory: Assistive	Al Category: Augmentative	Al Category: Autonomous
Primary objective	Detects clinically relevant data	Analyzes and/or quantifiesdata in a clinically meaninful way	Interprets data and independently generates clinically relevent conclusions
Provides independent diagnosis and/or management decision	No	No	Yes
Analyzes data	No	Yes	Yes
Requires physician or other QHP interpretation and report	yes	Yes	No
Examples in CPT code set	Algorithmic eletro- cardiogram risk-based assessment for cardiac dysfunction (0764T, 0765T)	Noninvasive estimate of coronary fractional flow reserve (FFR) (75580)	Retinal imaging (92229)



### **AI DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

FDA-authorized, rigorously validated processes are essential for quality patient care. Data collection and usage must be transparent, with variety in patient data critical for appropriate care.

### **CLINICIAN'S ROLE**



Careful design of payment for AI will be essential as current U.S. payment structures are not compatible with AI integration. AI has great potential to support care, but that does not take away the clinician's interpretive effort and expertise that is needed. We urge the application of appropriate and different payment pathways for the diverse range of AI services, ranging from assistive to autonomous, when determining AI usage.

#### LIABILITY CONCERNS Healthcare providers have inv

Healthcare providers have invested in AI tools but worry about algorithm inaccuracy and malpractice concerns. Liability should be balanced across the medical community without placing undue burden on physicians and frontline clinicians. This balance promotes safe development and integration of AI and machine learning technologies.

American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the Society for Cardiovascular Ultrasound Professionals<sup>™</sup>. It is the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging serving physicians, sonographers, nurses, veterinarians, and scientists and as such is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines for the field.