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“Delivering independent, high quality, fully integrated, solutions to all your echocardiography needs.”

Echocardiogram Quality Assurance Policy



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Aims

- Continual quality improvement through senior review, re-reporting and audit.
- To identify individuals in need of increased support/supervision.
- To identify departmental training needs.

Methods

- As a minimum 10% of all echo studies performed by echocardiographers partnered with Echo Quality Solutions (EQS) LTD will undergo senior review, re-reporting and audit.
- The studies to be re-reported will be chosen by our head of quality assurance (HoQA).
- The chosen studies will be -
 - Representative of all common pathologies seen by the department.
 - Representative of/proportionate to each independently performing/reporting echocardiographer's workload.
- The senior review and re-reporting of each study will cover the technical quality of the study (in accordance with BSE minimum data set standards) and the interpretation/reporting of the study with respect to each specific area (LV, RV, atria etc.). Graded as follows -
 - Green - Little/no difference of opinion.
 - Amber - Significant difference of opinion but with low likelihood of causing patient harm if report not amended.
 - Red - Significant difference of opinion with moderate/high likelihood of causing patient harm if report not amended/referring clinician not informed.
- Once complete the senior re-report summary will be sent to the head of the host organisation's cardiac diagnostics department and the original reporting echocardiographer (this can then be included in the physiologist/doctor's personal appraisal folder). A copy (without patient identifier) of the re-report will be kept by EQS for audit purposes.
- Those studies with areas graded as amber will require written personal reflection from the echocardiographer. This will be recorded and audited by EQS.
- Those studies with areas graded as red will require -
 - Personal reflection (written) from the echocardiographer.
 - Report amendment by the echocardiographer.
 - Referring clinician to be informed to allow patient management to be adjusted if necessary.
 - All these requirements will be recorded and audited by EQS.



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- At 6 monthly intervals there will be a review of QA data including -
 - Total number of studies reviewed and their gradings for the EQS personnel as a whole. This will be available for all stakeholders to see.
 - The total number of studies reviewed and their gradings for each individual echocardiographer. These will be available for review by the individual echocardiographer, EQS and, where appropriate, the host organisation.
- The HoQA will continually -
 - Audit Amber/Red reflections/report amendment/informing of referring clinician.
 - Use the information gained to identify echocardiographers that need extra supervision and/or areas for which all echocardiographers within the team need further training.
- EQS and their head of quality assurance can adapt and/or add to the above, after discussion, according to the wishes of the host organisation.