



EAST CAROLINA
HEART INSTITUTE
AT VIDANT MEDICAL CENTER

East Carolina Heart Institute
Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship

STAT TRANSTHORACIC ECHOCARDIOGRAM POLICY

PURPOSE

- To delineate policies and procedures for receiving and carrying out STAT transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) orders and requests.
- To ensure timely TTE results and reads to strive for clinical excellence while providing high quality patient care.

POLICY STATEMENT

Cardiology receives requests and orders for STAT TTEs. These STAT requests and orders are handled by the consult or on-call fellow. The procedure below outlines how these requests and orders should be processed.

PROCEDURE

- The consult or on-call fellow will be yielding requests for STAT TTEs orders and requests.
- When a STAT TTE is requested, the fellow must inquire for the reason of the STAT request.
 - During regular business hours (7 am – 4:30 pm weekdays), the fellow will call the echocardiography lab and inform the lab of the STAT request and reason. Subsequently, he/she must inform the TTE fellow of the STAT echocardiogram request. The TTE fellow will contact the TTE reading attending physician immediately after the echocardiogram has been uploaded into Xcelera and pre-read by the TTE fellow.
 - During after-hours and weekends (4:30 pm – 7 am weekdays and weekends), the fellow will be need to physically assess the patient and determine if a STAT TTE is warranted. He/she will perform a bedside echocardiogram and attempt to answer the clinical question.
 - If the clinical question cannot be answered by the bedside echocardiogram, the fellow will page the on-call echocardiogram technician and be present at the bedside when the technician arrives.

- After completion of the formal echocardiogram (if deemed necessary to answer clinical question), the on-call fellow will call the on-call attending physician for a formal read.
- Fellows will be courteous and respectful to clinicians requesting STAT echocardiograms.
- Fellows will only call the on-call echocardiogram technician after they have attempted themselves to answer the clinical question by performing a bedside echocardiogram.
- If the on-call attending does not read echocardiograms, it is the fellow's responsibility to contact Dr. Nekkanti or Dr. Kabirdas to obtain a formal read for the echocardiogram.
- The time from placement of STAT echocardiogram order to a formal read will be < 120 minutes.

Failure to follow the above procedures can result in the following: verbal warning, written disciplinary action that could include dismissal.

Policy Owner: Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Policy Committee

Policy Approved by: Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Policy Committee
Rajasekhar Nekkanti, MD, Program Director

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