Certifying Examination for Cardiac Sonographers
The PSE/PHA Joint Committee on Accreditation

I. What is the PSE/PHA Joint Committee on Accreditation?

The Joint Committee on Accreditation is the independent body of experts from the Philippine Society of Echocardiography and Philippine Heart Association tasked to draft and approve guidelines for training and accreditation in echocardiography for both physicians and sonographers. It is also in charge of designating the board of examiners who shall craft and administer the certifying examination for echocardiographers and cardiac sonographers.

II. What is the certifying examination for cardiac sonographers?

A. Background of the Examination:
   The certifying examination for cardiac sonographers is considered an objective means of assessing the competency of sonographers with respect to the technical and practical aspects of echocardiography. Certification as a cardiac sonographer indicates a high level of knowledge and skill that will ensure the performance of quality echo studies.

B. Purpose of the Examination:
   To certify cardiac sonographers who have an acceptable level of knowledge, expertise and competency in the practice of cardiac sonography which will contribute ultimately to patient safety and quality of patient care. Those who pass both written and practical examinations will be given certificates. This implies a certain a level of competence which may be used as criterion for selection and promotion of cardiac sonographers by employers, as well as future recognition as Fellows of the Philippine Society of Echocardiography.

C. Board of Examiners:
   For 2019, the Board of Examiners for Cardiac Sonographers is composed of:
   • Chair: Edwin Tucay, MD, FPSE
   • Co-chair: Bridget Donato-Fernandez, MD, FPSE
   • Secretary: Sue Ann Locnen, MD, FPSE
   • Members: Victor Lazaro, MD, FPSE
                Jonnie Bote Nunez, MD, FPSE
                Aileen Senga, RMT, FPSE
III. What are the coverage and mechanics of the examination?

A. Coverage of the Examination:
1. Basic Electrocardiography
2. Transducers and instrumentation
3. Basic Principles of ultrasound, acoustics and Doppler
4. Standard views in echocardiography
5. 2D echo, M-Mode, color Doppler imaging, Tissue Doppler
6. Special procedures (contrast echo, stress echo, transesophageal echo, 3D echo and intravascular echo)
7. Strengths and pitfalls of echocardiography
8. Appropriateness criteria for the use of echocardiography
9. Echocardiography in Ischemic/Coronary artery disease
10. Echocardiography in Myocardial and Pericardial diseases
11. Echocardiography of common heart diseases (valvular heart disease)
12. Echocardiography of common heart diseases (congenital heart disease)
13. Echocardiography of Cardiac masses and systemic cardiac diseases
14. Echocardiography in diseases of the aorta

B. Mechanics of the Examination:

1. Part I: WRITTEN EXAM
   • 120 multiple-choice questions (4 choices) from 14 major topics
   • 20 questions from each examiner
   • Passing rate: based on MPL
   • Deadline for submission of applications: September 7, 2019
   • Date and Venue: Sept 15, 2019 (Sunday) -- 1-5pm; Emerald A, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Avenue

2. Part II: PRACTICAL EXAM
   • Only passers of the written exam will be allowed to take the practical exam.
   • There will be a practical exam fee of PhP 1000.
   • Resources: Volunteer patients and echo machines for hands-on scanning.
   • Date of exam to be announced by the board.

C. Recommended references
1. American Society of Echocardiography practice guidelines
IV. Who can take the certifying examination for cardiac sonographers?

A. Anyone who desires to seek certification in the field of echocardiography with the intent of improving quality and practice may opt to apply.

B. Requirements to qualify for the written certifying examination: Anyone who satisfies ALL of the following requirements may take the certifying exam:
   1. Certification of passing a cardiac sonographer training program recognized by Philippine Society of Echocardiography*
   2. Certification of attendance to 2 major echo related conferences and 1 minor echo related conference within the past 2 years of application.
   3. Certification of employment as cardiac sonographer for the past 3 years of application.
   4. Letter of intent to take the exam (addressed to the Chair of the Board of Examiners)
   5. Application fee: PhP 500

   *In lieu of requirement number 1, those in practice as cardiac sonographers for the past 5 years may be considered provided that a certification from a recognized cardiac laboratory by a level 3 echo cardiographer as head is submitted. Examinees should bring Government IDs and proof of payment.

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For any further questions or clarifications, please contact us at:

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