



Application for Recertification

Adult Echocardiography (ReASCE)

Certification Requirements and Online Certification Instructions

National Board of Echocardiography, Inc.[®]
3915 Beryl Rd., Suite 130, Raleigh, NC 27607-5609
Phone: 919-861-5582 • Email: certification@echoboard.org
Website: www.echoboard.org

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Introduction

National Board of Echocardiography, Inc.

The National Board of Echocardiography, Inc. (NBE) was formed in December 1998. The NBE is a not-for-profit corporation established to:

- develop and administer examinations in the field of Clinical Echocardiography,
- recognize those physicians who successfully complete either the Examination of Special Competence in Adult Echocardiography (ASCeXAM), the Recertification Examination of Special Competence in Adult Echocardiography (ReASCE), or the Examination of Special Competence in Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (PTEeXAM), and
- develop a certification process that will publicly recognize those physicians who have completed an approved training program in echocardiography as specified in this application and have additionally passed the ASCeXAM, the ReASCE, or the PTEeXAM.

The examination and certification of special competence in echocardiography are not intended to restrict the practice of echocardiography. The process is undertaken, rather, in the belief that the public desires an indication from the profession regarding those who have made the effort to optimize their skill in the performance and interpretation of cardiac ultrasound.

The first examination in clinical echocardiography was given under the auspices of the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) as a field test in 1995. An examination of special competence was then given in 1996, again under the ASE, and in 1997 and 1998 under ASEeXAM, Inc. Since 1999 the exam has been administered annually by the NBE. For these examinations, the title of “Testamur” was designated for applicants who successfully passed the examination. This designation was chosen since applicants were not requested to supply information regarding successful completion of training dedicated to the study of Cardiovascular Disease nor completion of special training in echocardiography. With a mature and well-tested examination, a well-defined body of knowledge, published training guidelines, and published continuing quality improvement, the NBE began offering certification in 2001.

The title of “Diplomate” was designated for physicians who were certified in echocardiography. Certification is valid for ten (10) years from the year that the Examination of Special Competence is passed.

The NBE has developed a Recertification Examination that is similar in format to the Examination of Special Competence in Adult Echocardiography (ASCeXAM) but is designed specifically for those who have previously passed the ASCeXAM. The purpose of the Recertification Examination is to promote continued excellence in the performance and interpretation of cardiac ultrasound. This examination should be considered in conjunction with ongoing continuing medical education in the field.

Eligibility

Recertification

Diplomates of the NBE who meet the criteria for recertification may apply for recertification at the time of application for the ReASCE examination.

Note: If you have previously not certified in transesophageal and/or stress echocardiography, but have performed the required number of studies per year for the two (2) years prior to this application, Transthoracic Plus Transesophageal (te), Transthoracic Plus Stress (ts), or Comprehensive (c) Certification may be requested.

The Certification Committee will review applications for Certification. Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision of the Committee. Review of application for certification will be contingent on successful completion of the ReASCE examination. Applicants will receive notification of the decision of the Committee within a year.

Testamurs and Diplomates of the ASCeXAM may take the ReASCE in their 8th, 9th, and 10th years surrounding their 10-year expiration date. Recertification is effective as of the expiration date of the ASCeXAM (initial test). Applicants have 10 years to apply for recertification through the recertification requirements.

Testamur Status

Testamurs of the ASCeXAM will continue to have access to the examination. This is to encourage physicians to test and demonstrate their knowledge of echocardiography based on an objective standard. This is to allow the medical community the opportunity to recognize individuals who elect to participate in and successfully complete a comprehensive examination in echocardiography. Those who successfully pass the examination will continue to be designated as “Testamur” by the National Board of Echocardiography, Inc. Testamurs who wish to apply for initial Certification in Echocardiography must use the Application for Board Certification, which may be found in the ASCeXAM Certification Application.

Apply for Recertification

The Purposes of Recertification

The purposes of the certification process are to:

- establish the domain of the practice of echocardiography for the purpose of certification,
- assess the level of knowledge demonstrated by a licensed physician practitioner of echocardiography in a valid manner,
- enhance the quality of echocardiography and individual professional growth in echocardiography,
- formally recognize individuals who satisfy the requirements set by the NBE, and
- serve the public by encouraging quality patient care in the practice of echocardiography.

Levels of Certification Offered:

- Comprehensive Certification (c) – Includes all Three - Transthoracic, Transesophageal, and Stress Echocardiography
- Transthoracic Certification (t) – Transthoracic (Cardiovascular Clinician)
- Transesophageal Echocardiography (te) – Transthoracic Plus Transesophageal Echocardiography (Cardiovascular Clinician)
 - (e) – Transesophageal Echocardiography Alone (Cardiovascular Anesthesiologist, Cardiovascular Surgeon)
- Transthoracic Plus Stress Echocardiography Certification (ts)

Note: If you have previously not certified in transesophageal and/or stress echocardiography but have performed the required number of studies per year for the two (2) years prior to this application, Transthoracic Plus Transesophageal (te), Transthoracic Plus Stress (ts), or Comprehensive (c) Certification may be requested.

Physicians who are certified in Transthoracic Echocardiography (or higher) by the NBE may apply for additional certification once their level of service in those areas meets the minimum requirements (see page 9).

Apply for Recertification

Recertification Documentation and Instructions

The National Board of Echocardiography, Inc. reserves the right to audit stated clinical experience and continued provision of services in echocardiography for the sake of eligibility for certification.

Letters Documenting Level of Service:

All letters documenting level of service **MUST** be typed on appropriate letterhead, **MUST** be the original notarized letter (no copies), and **MUST** contain **EXACT** numbers of studies performed and interpreted. Applications with letters not meeting these criteria will not be reviewed.

All letters documenting level of service from Division or Department Head of Cardiovascular Disease, Director of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, or the Medical Director* of the Echocardiography Laboratory (Level III) **MUST** be typed on appropriate letterhead and **MUST** be notarized. Sample letters are available on pages 11 and 12 and on our website: www.echoboard.org.

In the absence of a formal director of the echocardiography laboratory, the letter should be written by an appropriate supervising physician.

*Note: If applicant is the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory, the letter should be written by the Chief of Cardiology or the Chief of Staff of the Hospital.

If applicants are in private practice and services are provided in the office, the letter documenting level of service must be on appropriate letterhead and should be written by the CEO or president of the practice. If the applicant is the CEO or president of the practice, the letter should be written by the business manager.

For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

We request that the notarized letters verifying the number of studies per year be broken down by procedure code in the following format.

	Year 1 (2021)	Year 2 (2022)	Year 3 (2023)
Transthoracic (93303-93308)	####	####	####
Transesophageal (93312-93317)	####	####	####
Stress Echo (93350-93351)	####	####	####

The **EXACT** number of studies performed and interpreted per year **MUST** be provided. **Committee decisions will be determined using the numbers provided in this letter.** Applications containing approximated and/or rounded numbers will **NOT** be reviewed by the Certification Committee.

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are required. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY.

Effective Date of Recertification

Diplomates of the NBE who pass the Recertification Examination and meet the requirements for recertification will be certified for an additional ten (10) years from the expiration date of their current certification. Testamurs who pass the Recertification examination will retain their status for an additional ten (10) years; e.g., if the ASCeXAM was passed in 2014, the current certification or Testamur status is valid until December 31, 2024. **The status will be extended until December 31, 2034, regardless of which year the Recertification Examination is passed.**

Review of Documentation for Recertification

Since Recertification is dependent on passing the ReASCE, applications for Recertification are reviewed after the examination has been satisfactorily completed.

Maintenance of Testamur or Diplomate Status:

- Testamurs and Diplomates of the NBE are required to take the ReASCE in either the 8th, 9th, or 10th year surrounding their 10-year anniversary date to maintain their status with the NBE. Individuals who allow their status to lapse will have their names removed from the NBE's online Testamur/Diplomate listing page.
- If a Diplomate does take and pass the ReASCE in the compulsory timeframe, but does not submit the required documentation for recertification, the candidate is eligible to apply for recertification at any time before the expiration of their Testamur status. Once their application for recertification is approved, their status will be changed from Testamur to Diplomate of the level in which they were approved.
- If a Testamur/Diplomate does NOT take and pass the ReASCE in the compulsory timeframe, the individual must pass the ReASCE and pay a \$200.00 reinstatement fee at the time of application. Additionally, Diplomates who do not take the ReASCE in the required 3-year period must meet the initial certification requirements and the CME requirements for recertification.
- If Testamur or Diplomate status has lapsed more than 9 years, applicants must take the ASCeXAM.

Example for 2004 Initial Examination Pass Date:

Action	Year
Initial Examination Passed	2014
Eligible for Recertification Examination	2022 to 2024
Retake Initial Examination	2025 or later

KEY POINT – *At any point after their certification has lapsed, applicants may attempt the initial ASCeXAM and receive certification for 10 years from the year the most recent exam was passed.*

Testamurs from 1996-1998 are not required to sit for ReASCE to maintain their Testamur status with the NBE; however, the NBE strongly encourages these individuals to test and demonstrate their knowledge of echocardiography based on this objective standard.

Board Recertification Requirements

BOARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

I. Comprehensive Certification (c): (Transthoracic, Transesophageal, and Stress)

Applicants must show continued maintenance of skills in transthoracic, transesophageal, and stress echocardiography according to the requirements for each of the three levels of certification.

II. Transthoracic Certification (t):

Requirement 1. Pass the ReASCE

Applicants must pass the ReASCE.

Requirement 2. Diplomate of the NBE through the ASCeXAM

Applicants must be currently certified by the NBE in Echocardiography through the ASCeXAM.

Requirement 3. Current License to Practice Medicine

Applicants who wish to apply for certification must hold a valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine at the time of application. (Geographical restrictions may be accepted and are subject to approval. Medical restrictions or restrictions to scope of practice will not be accepted for purposes of eligibility for certification.)

Requirement 4. Continued Maintenance of Skills in Echocardiography

The applicant must have provided echocardiography services for at least 400 2-Dimensional Echo/Doppler studies per year for two (2) of the three (3) years immediately preceding this application.

For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

Requirement 5. Continuing Medical Education Specific to Echocardiography

Applicants must have at least 15 hours of AMA category 1 continuing medical education devoted to echocardiography obtained during the three (3) years immediately preceding this application.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Comprehensive Certification (c): See explanation of requirements and documentation on pages 7 and 8 for transthoracic, transesophageal, and stress certification. You must meet each of these requirements to be eligible for Comprehensive Certification.

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. The end of the most recent year for which credit is required must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

Applicant must supply all required documentation for maintenance of skills.

Indicate current level of certification on application.

A copy of current medical license renewal certificate that shows the expiration date.

Transthoracic Certification (t): An original notarized letter typed on appropriate letterhead verifying the number of 2-D Echo/Doppler studies performed per year for each of the two (2) or three (3) years preceding this application must be provided as appropriate (see Letters Documenting Level of Service: page 6).

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are re-quired. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

A copy of certificate(s) or documentation from the institution providing CME credits documenting 15 hours of AMA category 1 CME devoted to echocardiography. For meetings not devoted only to echocardiography, applicants must indicate on the copy of the certificate how many hours were devoted to echocardiography.

Board Certification Requirements

BOARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

III. Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification

Certification in transesophageal echocardiography is available in two forms.

1. Transthoracic and Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification (te) is designed for the cardiovascular clinician providing both transthoracic and transesophageal services.
2. Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification (e) is designed for the cardiovascular anesthesiologist or cardiovascular surgeon whose primary echocardiography service is transesophageal echocardiography.

1. Transthoracic and Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification (te):

In addition to the documentation for transthoracic certification, applicants must show continued maintenance of skills in transesophageal echocardiography.

Performance and interpretation of at least 50 transesophageal echocardiograms per year for two (2) of the three (3) years immediately preceding this application is required.

For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

2. Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification (e):

Applicants meeting Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 for Transthoracic Certification may substitute transesophageal experience for transthoracic experience for the purpose of certification in transesophageal echocardiography. This certification is limited to interpretation of diagnostic transesophageal studies and does not imply certification for interpretation of diagnostic transthoracic procedures. Applicants must show continued maintenance of skills in transesophageal echocardiography:

Performance of at least 100 transesophageal echocardiograms per year for two (2) of the three (3) years immediately preceding this application.

IV. Transthoracic and Stress Echocardiography Certification (ts):

In addition to the requirements for transthoracic certification, applicants must show continued maintenance of skills in pharmacologic or exercise stress echocardiography.

Primary interpretation of at least 100 stress echocardiograms per year for two (2) of the three (3) years immediately preceding this application is required.

For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Transthoracic and Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification (te): An original notarized letter typed on appropriate letterhead from the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory (Level III) verifying the number of transesophageal echocardiograms performed and interpreted per year for each of the two (2) or three (3) years preceding this application as appropriate (see Letters Documenting Level of Service: page 6).

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are required. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

Transesophageal Echocardiography Certification (e): An original notarized letter typed on appropriate letterhead from the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory (Level III) verifying the number of Transesophageal studies performed for each of the two (2) or three (3) years preceding this application as appropriate (see Letters Documenting Level of Service: page 6).

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are required. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

Transthoracic and Stress (ts): An original notarized letter typed on appropriate letterhead from the Training Director or the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory (Level III) verifying the number of Stress Echoes performed per year for each of the two (2) or three (3) years preceding this application as appropriate (see Letters Documenting Level of Service: page 6).

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are required. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

Board Certification Requirements for Change in Certification Status

This page applies in the event the applicant does not meet the recertification criteria for TEE or Stress at the time of taking ReASCE.

BOARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

I. Additional Recertification in Transesophageal Echocardiography:

Requirement 1.

Applicants must be currently certified by the NBE in Transthoracic or Transthoracic Plus Stress Echocardiography and have previously been granted c or te certification.

Requirement 2.

Applicants must show continued maintenance of skills in transesophageal echocardiography according to the following:

Performance and interpretation of at least 50 transesophageal echocardiograms per year for two (2) of the three (3) years immediately preceding this application.

For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

II. Additional Recertification in Stress Echocardiography:

Requirement 1.

Applicants must be currently certified by the NBE in Transthoracic or Transthoracic Plus Transesophageal Echocardiography and have previously been granted c or ts certification.

Requirement 2.

Applicants must show continued maintenance of skills in pharmacologic or exercise stress echocardiography according to the following:

Primary interpretation of at least 100 stress echocardiograms per year for two (2) of the three (3) years immediately preceding this application.

For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

An original notarized letter typed on appropriate letterhead from the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory (Level III) verifying the number of Transesophageal studies performed for each of the two (2) or three (3) years preceding this application as appropriate (see Letters Documenting Level of Service: page 6).

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are re-quired. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

An original notarized letter typed on appropriate letterhead from the Training Director or the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory (Level III) verifying the number of Stress Echoes performed per year for each of the two (2) or three (3) years preceding this application as appropriate (see Letters Documenting Level of Service: page 6).

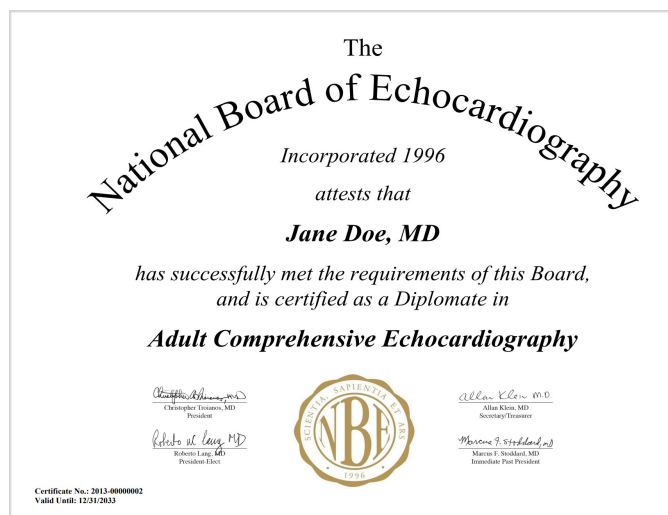
Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are re-quired. For example: MM/DD/YYYY- MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

Online Recertification Instructions

Instructions to Create a New Application:

Please log in to your account, using your eight(8) digit NBE ID number including leading zeroes. If you are unable to recall your account information, please **do not** create a new account and reach out to us via info@echoboards.org for your account log in and password. If there have been any additional changes to your account, such as email address please also clarify these additional changes. Once you can log in to your account, you will need to:

1. Select “Certification application” from the top right of the screen within your dashboard.
2. A box will drop down that lists all certification application types.
3. Please select the appropriate certification where you will need to upload your documents.
4. Upon selecting your certification application type, you will click blue button to create a “Create a New Application”.
5. You will need to answer a few demographic questions and upload the required documents in PDF format.
6. Once you have uploaded all documents. You will attest that all uploaded documents are true and accurate, and then select the blue submit button on the “Application Summary” tab. Upon submission of your application to the NBE, you will receive an email stating that we have received your documents and that they will be reviewed in the order in which they have been received.
7. From the time in which we receive your documents to the time in which we will review them, this can take about two weeks to a month.
8. Upon the completion of reviewing your application you will receive one of two notifications:
 - a. A notification asking for more information/documentation and notes that outline what is needed. These notes will be found within your application on your account dashboard.
 - b. A notification that indicates your application has been moved into stage two review or into the upcoming review by the certification committee.
9. Once the certification committee has completed their review, then additional communication will be made via email indicating the status of your application and will also be reflected on your account dashboard, and NBE Physicians verification (Only for approved applicants. All other will not be reflected on the verification website).
10. If your application is approved, you will find a printable certificate available to you on your account dashboard. Since we have gone paperless, we will not be printing the certificate for you. If you wish to have a hardcopy of your certificate you can print it yourself or take the PDF version of the certificate to a location that can print it for you (FedEx, Staples, etc.)



Sample Letter

For physicians who are in private practice

ABC Practice

123 Main Street • New York, NY 54321 • (212) 123-5432

Date _____

National Board of Echocardiography, Inc.
3915 Beryl Rd. Suite 130
Raleigh, NC 27607-5609

RE: *Applicant's Full Name*
 Applicant's Date of Birth

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to confirm that Dr. *(Applicant's name)* is a practicing cardiologist in private practice. Our records indicate that *(he/she)* has performed and interpreted echoes as follows:

	Year 1 (2021)	Year 2 (2022)	Year 3 (2023)
Transthoracic (93303-93308) *	#####	#####	#####
Transesophageal (93312-93317)*	#####	#####	#####
Stress Echo (93350-93351)*	#####	#####	#####

I certify that the number of studies provided above are exact numbers and are not rounded and/or estimates.
(Please check box.)

Sincerely,

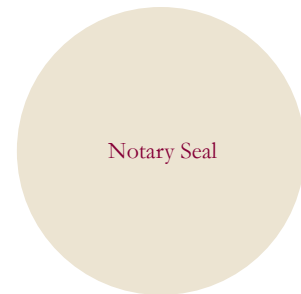
(Original signature required)

Typed name

Title (President, CEO, or Business Manager)

Sworn and subscribed to before me on *(date)*: _____

Signature of Notary Public



NOTE: For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

The EXACT number of studies performed and interpreted must be provided. Committee decisions will be determined using the numbers provided in this letter. Applications containing approximated and/or rounded numbers will NOT be reviewed by the Certification Committee. Letters documenting level of service MUST be on appropriate letterhead, MUST BE NOTARIZED, and MUST be the original letter.

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are required. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

Sample Letter

For physicians who work in a hospital setting

XYZ Hospital

123 Main Street • New York, NY 54321 • (212) 123-5432

Date

National Board of Echocardiography, Inc.
3915 Beryl Rd. Suite 130
Raleigh, NC 27607-5609

RE: *Applicant's Full Name*
 Applicant's Date of Birth

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to confirm that Dr. *(Applicant's name)* is a practicing cardiologist working in our Echocardiography Lab. Our records indicate that *(he/she)* has performed and interpreted echoes as follows:

	Year 1 (2021)	Year 2 (2022)	Year 3 (2023)
Transthoracic (93303-93308)*	####	####	####
Transesophageal (93312-93317)*	####	####	####
Stress Echo (93350-93351)*	####	####	####

I certify that the number of studies provided above are exact numbers and are not rounded and/or estimates.
(Please check box.)

Sincerely,

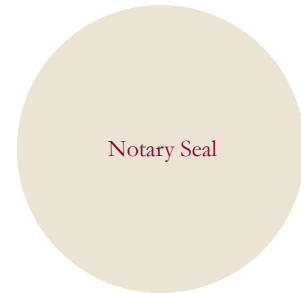
(Original signature required)

Typed name

Title (Medical Director)**

Sworn and subscribed to before me on *(date)*: _____

Signature of Notary Public



NOTE: For the purpose of certification, a study performed and/or interpreted may be counted only once and must be counted under the code that it was billed. Example: Even though a full TTE is performed as part of a Stress Echo with only a single bill being submitted (93350-93351), the study must be counted as a Stress Echo and cannot be counted as both a TTE and a Stress.

The EXACT number of studies performed and interpreted must be provided. Committee decisions will be determined using the numbers provided in this letter. Applications containing approximated and/or rounded numbers will NOT be reviewed by the Certification Committee. Letters documenting level of service MUST be on appropriate letterhead, MUST BE NOTARIZED, and MUST be the original letter.

Note: The numbers provided must be in parallel, consecutive years, but need not be calendar years. If using a fiscal year, exact dates are required. For example: MM/DD/YYYY - MM/DD/YYYY. The end of the most recent year for which credit is requested must fall within the 12 months prior to receipt of the complete application.

In the absence of a formal director of the echocardiography laboratory, the letter should be written by an appropriate supervising physician. If applicant is the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory, the letter should be from the Chief of Cardiology or the Chief of Staff of the Hospital.