



**ADDITION TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC FACILITY
GUIDELINES FOR RECOMMENDING APPROVAL/DENIAL WHEN REVIEWING
APPLICATIONS FOR NEW DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES**

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

Effective April 20, 2007, applications for echocardiography are to be considered by the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF) only when the applications for such approval are from Health Authorities. The ACDF may approve applications from Health Authorities for onsite hospital facilities, applications to expand echocardiography capacity to offsite hospital facilities and/or contract with accredited BC private facilities.

Payment under the Medical Services Plan for echocardiography performed by offsite hospital echocardiography facilities or contracted echocardiography facilities must be billed in accordance with the attached billing rules.

As stated in its Guidelines, the ACDF should not recommend approval, without reasonable justification, where projected services volumes would exceed the current provincial average per capita frequency for the expected service population. The ACDF should only grant approval with due regard to its guidelines concerning accessibility and proximity, and any other condition or requirements given by the MSC, consistent with its statutory authority.

Echocardiography Application and Billing Guidelines

A. Health Authority/Hospital-Operated Free Standing Echocardiography Laboratories

1. Completion of the Medical Services Commission/Health Authority Division Application for New/Expanded Out-Patient Diagnostic Services
2. Claims must be submitted under the Certificate facility number issued for the specific address of the off-site facility.

B. Contracted Echocardiography Services

1. Applications submitted by a Health Authority/hospital for approval of contracted echocardiography services should include:
 - i) the name of the facility to be contracted
 - ii) the name(s) of the physician(s) providing the echocardiography service
 - iii) the number of services for which the contract has been made
 - iv) the time period for the term of the contract
2. Claims will be submitted by the hospital in the Health Authority overseeing the off-site facility or contract using a unique Certificate of Approval facility number issued by the Medical Services Commission to the Health Authority/hospital specifically for the contracted service along with the practitioner number of the physician providing the echocardiography service.

- 3.. The Medical Services Commission is not liable for payment to private echocardiography facilities contracted by a health authority/hospital. Payment to a private facility for contracted echocardiography services is the responsibility of the Health Authority/Hospital.