

# CPRB

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**Practical Competency Assessment**

**Guidelines for Registrant's in Cardiac Scope  
(Sonography)**

**2014**

## Guidelines for Registrant

The PCA will take the following format of two examiners visiting the registrant's workplace where the registrant will perform three echocardiograms and present two previously selected case studies of their choice. After the echocardiograms there should be opportunity for brief discussion and questions if required, so 60 minutes should be allowed between each echocardiogram i.e. a maximum of 45 minutes scanning time per echocardiogram.

The registrant should choose two regular echocardiograms they have performed within the last 6 weeks, to present to the examiners as case studies. Each case presentation should take approximately 15 minutes; include the indication for the echocardiogram, review of the echocardiographic images, overview of findings and interpretation. The session may include questions or discussion from the examiners.

- The 3 cases to be conducted in the presence of the examiners must have pathology (a) LV function (b) AS + (c) Any other pathology
- Registrant needs give correct interpretation of the echocardiograms performed. This may be written/read or verbal as per the registrants normal practice
- Examiners may ask the registrant to make additional measurements where these have not been illustrated during the echocardiograms or case presentations
- Normal value tables & scanning protocols & reference guidelines may be available during scanning
- Assessment process is expected to take 4 hours in total
- Objectives as per ASE sonographer curriculum – registrant to advise if these need to be provided prior to assessment
- The examiners will take notes during the echocardiograms and case presentations and confer afterwards to complete the consensus marking form
- Where the assessment process cannot demonstrate competence, corrective actions and recommendations to achieve competence will be provided to the registrant within 10 working days
- Failure to show competence will mean the examiners have observed significant inaccuracies that remain uncorrected, observed significant pathology that has not been described by the registrant or where the registrant has made significant incorrect final descriptions or interpretations; any instances would be clearly described on examination form and include any relevant corrective actions

During the practical examination the registrant is to demonstrate the following areas of competence:

1. Management; Preparation and Planning

This includes patient and time management, understanding the indication for echocardiogram, obtaining height and weight of patient, readiness of equipment & room

2. Communication; Care of Patient, Data and Information

Includes greeting patient, explanation to patient, verification of correct patient, awareness and respect of patient rights as per HDC code of rights, appropriate follow up in place for patient – with respect to echocardiographic findings, management of patient information, privacy & confidentiality

3. Technical; Imaging Technique & Instrumentation

Includes systematic approach to scanning, use of protocols or guidelines, correct and appropriate optimisation of all imaging modalities (2D, M Mode, CFM, PW, CW +/- 2D strain & 3D)

4. Clinical; Study Content and Structured Approach

Includes understanding differential diagnosis, relevant measurements and analysis for full clinical echocardiographic assessment or screening of pathology

5. Problem Solving; Measurement and Post-Processing

Includes accurate measurements during or after study, study extension to appropriately image and assess initial findings

6. Scientific: Interpretation & Reporting

Includes reconciling measurements against standardised normal values, correct descriptive comments and correct interpretive analysis of all findings

7. Research & Development: Application to Practice

Includes integration of current techniques, practices, their limitations, normal values and relevance to clinical practice. Continuing professional development plan for ongoing education.