The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) is pleased to announce the official release of the 2012 IAC Standards and Guidelines for Adult Echocardiography Accreditation and the 2012 IAC Standards and Guidelines for Pediatric Echocardiography Accreditation. In continuing our efforts to further evolve the accreditation process, these newly formatted Standards provide enhanced clarity and are now consistently formatted across the IAC modalities (Vascular Testing, Echocardiography, Nuclear/PET, MRI and CT).

Download the Standards at www.intersocietal.org/echo/main/echo_standards.htm>

The majority of the changes made to the Standards improve upon the organization and structure of the Standards as a whole. Minor revisions made to the Standards from the previous version reflect advances in imaging that impact patient care. All Standards are identified in regular typeface in outline form and all Guidelines are printed in italic typeface in narrative form. Guidelines are descriptions, examples, or recommendations that elaborate on the Standards. Guidelines are not required, but can assist with interpretation of the Standard and generally appear at the end of each section.

Beginning in May 2012, participating facilities were given a voice in the accreditation process with the implementation of the 60-day comment period for proposed standard changes. Submitted comments were evaluated by the IAC Echocardiography Board of Directors and taken into consideration prior to publishing the final version of the new Standards.

Content changes made to the Standards are highlighted in the new version available on the website as well as in the current version of the Online Accreditation application. The 2012 IAC Standards and Guidelines for Adult Echocardiography Accreditation and the 2012 IAC Standards and Guidelines for Pediatric Echocardiography Accreditation become effective January 1, 2013. Applications submitted after January 1, 2013 must be in compliance with the new Standards.