

## CMS Contractor Modifies Accreditation Requirements for J14 Facilities Performing TTE Services MAINE, MASS., N.H., R.I., AND VT WILL TRANSITION TO NGS MEDICARE

SEPTEMBER 2013 | The states of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont (currently Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Jurisdiction 14) will be transitioned to a new CMS contractor in October 2013. The MAC Jurisdiction 14 will be moved from NHIC, Corp. and will now be contracted by NGS Medicare under Jurisdiction K effective October 18, 2013 for Part A providers and effective October 25, 2013 for Part B providers (A detailed document of all changes, can be found [here](#)).

**As part of this transition, updated LCDs will be implemented by NGS for the applicable states.** These LCDs can be found on the CMS website as Future LCDs [LCD ID: L27360 and LCD Title: Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE)]. NGS Medicare requires the following for reimbursement as related to accreditation (shown in *italic*):

*While it is not the Contractor's intention or jurisdiction to credential providers, Medicare does expect a satisfactory level of competence from providers who submit claims for services rendered. It is well known that substandard studies often lead to preventable repetition of studies and overutilization of services. The acceptable levels of competence are outlined as follows:*

*For the technical portion, an acceptable level of competence is fulfilled when the image acquisition is obtained under any one of the following conditions:*

- 1. The service is performed by a physician; or*
- 2. The technical service is performed by an individual who is credentialed as either a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers or as a Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) through the Cardiovascular Credentialing International; OR*
- 3. The service is performed at a laboratory (e.g. office, IDTF), credentialed by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission in Echocardiography (formerly ICAEL).** *Any non-physician personnel used by an IDTF to perform tests must demonstrate the basic qualifications to perform the tests in question and have training and proficiency as evidenced by licensure or certification by the appropriate State health or education department. In the absence of a State licensing board, the technician must be certified by an appropriate national credentialing body. The IDTF must maintain documentation available for review that these requirements are met.*

*For the professional portion, an acceptable level of competence is fulfilled when the interpretation is performed by a physician meeting any one of the following requirements:*

- 1. The physician is board certified in Cardiovascular Diseases; or*
- 2. The physician has Level II training in transthoracic echocardiography, as defined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association/ American College of Physicians Task Force on Clinical Competence in Echocardiography, or the equivalent of Level II training as set forth in that document.*

**For facilities, quality requirements should encompass approved ACC/AHA/ASE training standards for physicians, accreditation by IAC Echocardiography (formerly ICAEL) for facilities, and certification of cardiac sonographers by recognized national credentialing organizations as the appropriate quality standards.**

PLEASE NOTE: The policy details above detailing accreditation requirements are only a portion of the full reimbursement directive, please search for the full policy [LCD ID: L27360 and LCD Title: Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE)] on the CMS or your jurisdiction's appropriate A/B MAC website.

**This information was copied directly from the CMS website and is only offered as a notice to the echocardiography community. The IAC recommends all facilities that may fall under this requirement contact their CMS contractor immediately to ensure they will be in compliance with the policy at the time of the transition. NGS Medicare offers transition information on their website, [www.ngsmedicare.com](http://www.ngsmedicare.com) (click on the Jurisdiction K Transition information icon in the left sidebar).**