

ACCREDITATION EVOLVED... A STREAMLINED PATH TO HIGHER PERFORMANCE

## ICAEL Is Now IAC Echocardiography and the Accreditation Process Has Evolved!

FEBRUARY 2012 | Effective in February 2012, the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL) is now the IAC Echocardiography. The new IAC brand is much more than a logo; it is the culmination of extensive research of the needs of our clients. Last fall, the IAC conducted a broad study designed to give thousands throughout the medical imaging community who participate in the process a voice in the future of accreditation. View a new video detailing the exciting new changes happening at the IAC on our YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/user/IACAccreditation](http://www.youtube.com/user/IACAccreditation))»

We asked our clients what works well today ... and what they would like to see evolved. We learned that our customers truly value the IAC's high quality standards, the broad range of specialties and high level of expertise and our friendly, collaborative staff. We also learned there is opportunity for improvement across the accreditation industry; the process often seems more time-consuming and frustrating than it should be. Based on our findings, the IAC is launching accreditation evolved – new programs and services to make the process better and more rewarding.

### A BETTER ACCREDITATION EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR FACILITY

While maintaining our high standards focused on quality patient care, the IAC now offers program enhancements already in place or on the way:

- **Comment Period for New Standards.** When a Standard is being considered, facilities are informed and now have a 60 days to comment, giving our clients a voice in the accreditation process.
- **Live Chat.** Now available via the Online Accreditation application, quick access to a trained IAC staff member is just a click away, providing instant help as you work on your application.
- **The Accreditation Checklist.** Notes all required documentation for each modality offered by the IAC, in a convenient, easy-to-reference format.
- **Consistent Standards.** Coming soon in Spring 2012, all IAC Standards will share a consistent format so that a facility can easily navigate the accreditation process regardless of modality. The enhanced format will also separate the absolute requirements from the recommendations.
- **Electronic Uploads.** By mid-2012, the application process will be fully electronic, allowing applicant facilities to upload their case studies through a PACS system – eliminating the time and cost associated with shipping materials to IAC for review.
- **Research.** The IAC is committed in 2012 to conducting research to validate the benefits of accreditation.
- **Online Marketing Kit.** Through the secure IAC Online Accreditation portal, accredited facilities now have direct access to tools for promoting their accreditation. The Seal of Accreditation and press release are now easily accessible and the IAC's communications/marketing staff is ready to help with ideas for promoting your facility's commitment to quality.

Within the month of February, accredited facilities will receive a complimentary Marketing Kit, officially introducing the new IAC, including instructions for downloading the new Seal of Accreditation and other promotional tools.

IAC Echocardiography is the IAC division name by which the former ICAEL is now known. You will find that references strictly to the acronym itself (ICAEL) on the division websites and other communications are no longer in use.

We look forward to sharing additional ways that the IAC accreditation process continues to evolve in offering you a process that is streamlined, rewarding, leading and inclusive. It's a new day for accreditation and IAC is leading the way!