

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CARDIO PULMONARY POLICY MANUAL
ECHOCARDIOGRAM WITH NITRO**

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Effective Date: March 2010
Cross Referenced:
Reviewed Date: 02/16
Revised Date: 04/12

Policy No: 6.012
Origin: Cardio Pulmonary
Authority: Cardio/Pulmonary Manager
Page: 1 of 2

Purpose:

Echocardiograms with Nitro are performed by the technologists and the ordering Cardiologist during the hours of operation and are then interpreted by the ordering Cardiologist.

Definition:

Echocardiography with nitro is a diagnostic test that uses ultrasound waves to produce an image of the heart muscle and the heart's valves. The echo can show the size, shape, and movement of the heart's valves and chambers as well as the flow of blood through the heart. When Nitro is administered it increases blood flow therefore the doctor can determine heart disease.

Procedure:

1. Before the patient arrives; make sure the exam room is prepared with sheets, gowns, electrodes and warm gel.
2. When the patient arrives, greet him/her in a friendly and professional manner and introduce yourself. Take the prescription and make sure it has echo with nitro and a diagnosis. Check the patient's id name band; ask pts for name and birthday. Explain the procedure to the patient and tell them that the doctor will administer the Nitro, how long the test takes, and how the pictures are obtained. Have the patient change only from waist up and provide a hospital gown.
3. Have the patient sign a consent form for the Echo with Nitro.
4. Attach ECG electrodes to patient and attach ECG cable. Input patient information. If possible have patient turn into a left lateral position. Apply ultrasound gel to the transducer and position transducer on patient's chest. Select optimal setting for exam.
5. Images are as follows:
 - PARASTERNAL LONG AXIS VIEW
 - 1. Acquire long axis view
 - SHORT AXIS VIEW
 - 1. Acquire LV level at papillary
 - 2. Acquire LV level at papillary level and into apex
 - APICAL 4 CHAMBER VIEW
 - 1. Acquire apical 4 chamber
 - 2. Acquire apical 5 chamber
 - 3. Color and Doppler AO valve and LVOT obtain gradients.
 - 4. Page the cardiologist and tell him you are ready for the exam.
 - 5. Call the cardiac tech in for the procedure.
6. Cardiac Technician:
 - a. Take the patients information and fill out the patient's vital form.
 - b. Bring the Nitro, fax the prescription to pharmacy and will return the open rescue kit with nitro to pharmacy.
 - c. Take the patients vitals and will recover the patient for 30 min before discharge.
 - d. Blood pressure needs to be taken, before and after the Nitro is administered. Blood pressure will then be taken one min, three minutes, five minutes, and then every two minutes until blood pressure returns to resting blood pressure.

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7. Cardiologist:

- a. Will administer the nitro
- b. Will tell the Echo tech when and what pictures he needs.
- c. Give the patient results of the test when completed.

At the exam's completion, both electrodes and gel are removed and cleaned off the patient.

Universal precautions are always maintained.

8. Documentation:

The Echo reports will be in the Heart lab system to be interpreted and signed off by the physician. Out-patient reports will be faxed to the referring non-staff physician. In-patient and out-patient reports will be sent to Medical Records to be scanned into Cerner.

The Echo form, signed Consent and the patients vital form will all be sent to Medical Records.

CERNER AND HEARTLAB

Tasks for performing all Echo procedures will be placed in Cerner as an Echo Follow Up order by the echo tech and it will charge automatically. For In-patients the Cardiologist will place the order in Cerner as an Echo and after the test is completed the technician will enter an Echo Follow Up order for a charge and cancel the full Echo order. Nitro will be charged by pharmacy.