

## **Press Release**

**Date:** May 29, 2013

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### **Cook Children's Healthcare System Receives Echocardiography Accreditation by the IAC**

Each year more than 35,000 babies in the United States are born with congenital heart defects, making it the most common type of birth defect. It is also the most critical, as congenital heart defects cause more deaths during the first year of life than any other birth defect. Over the past few decades, however, diagnosis and treatment has improved, allowing almost all affected children to not only grow into adulthood, but to thrive.

Among the advanced diagnostic tools available, a noninvasive ultrasound study called an echocardiogram is commonly used to evaluate heart structure and function. The skill of the sonographer performing the examination, the type of equipment used, the background and knowledge of the interpreting physician and quality assurance measures are each critical to quality patient testing.

**Cook Children's Healthcare System located in Fort Worth, TX has been granted a three-year term of accreditation in Echocardiography in the areas of Pediatric Transthoracic, Fetal, and Pediatric Transesophageal by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC).**

Accreditation by the IAC means that Cook Children's Healthcare System has undergone a thorough review of its operational and technical components by a panel of experts. The IAC grants accreditation only to those facilities that are found to be providing quality patient care, in compliance with national standards through a comprehensive application process including detailed case study review.

IAC accreditation is a "seal of approval" that patients can rely on as an indication that the facility has been carefully critiqued on all aspects of its operations considered relevant by medical experts in the field of Echocardiography. When scheduled for an Echocardiography procedure, patients are encouraged to inquire as to the accreditation status of the facility where their examination will be performed and can learn more by visiting [www.intersocietal.org/echo/main/patients.htm](http://www.intersocietal.org/echo/main/patients.htm).

IAC accreditation is widely respected within the medical community, as illustrated by the support of the national medical societies related to Echocardiography, which include physicians and sonographers. Echocardiography accreditation is required in some states and regions by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and by some private insurers. Echocardiography accreditation is required in some states and regions by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and by a number of private insurers. However, patients should remain vigilant in making sure that their Echocardiography procedures are performed within accredited facilities, because for many facilities accreditation remains a voluntary process.

## Media List Form

Please fill out the requested contact information for up to 10 media sources (i.e., newspapers, magazines or trade publications). Each contact should include: the name of the publication, the name of a contact at the publication (i.e., an editor or reporter), an e-mail address for the contact and the publication's mailing address. This is not a paid advertisement; running the information provided in your press release is solely up to the media outlet. If you need help filling out this form, please contact us via e-mail at [marketing@intersocietal.org](mailto:marketing@intersocietal.org) or visit [www.intersocietal.org/echo/accredits/promoting\\_accreditation.htm](http://www.intersocietal.org/echo/accredits/promoting_accreditation.htm) for helpful resources on promoting your accreditation. Please note: The press release provided is meant for marketing purposes only and is not meant to notify insurers of your accreditation status.

**Application Number: 120060**

**Contact e-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cook Children's Healthcare System located in Fort Worth, TX was granted accreditation by IAC**

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