

# **ECHOCARDIOGRAM**

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Echocardiograms produce images of the heart to determine whether the heart has normal structures and functions. To create an image of the heart, sound waves bounce off the transducer placed on the chest in the area that lies directly over the heart. As the waves touch the heart, the echo sound wave bounces back to the transducer utilized by the technologist. The speed and intensity of the echo carries information about the heart tissue, valves, size and function of the heart. This information is made into an image which is utilized by the Cardiologist to make a clinical interpretation.

Tucson Heart Group performs and interprets all scheduled echocardiograms at Eastside Imaging and Desert Cardiology performs and interprets all scheduled echocardiograms at Northwest Imaging. The imaging centers will be responsible for scheduling patient exams.

This procedure can only be performed by a certified Ultrasound Technologist with specialized training in echocardiograms.

## **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

An echo is a painless test and involves no risk.

## **PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- No creams, lotions, or powders on the chest area the day of the study.
- Procedure may last up to 45-minutes in duration.

## **EXAM RESULTS:**

Reports will be dictated by the cardiologist reading the study and transcribed by the performing Cardiology Group. All original reports will be forwarded to the Ordering Physician by the performing cardiology group. Patient results will be communicated by the Ordering Physician.

## **PATIENT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

Patients will be presented with an Advanced Beneficiary Notice at the time of their visit indicating their financial responsibility if the study is not covered by their insurance carrier. The ABN will be maintained as part of the patient's medical record.

## **HOURS OF OPERATION:**

### **Eastside Imaging:**

Exams are performed on a scheduled appointment basis, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.

### **Northwest Imaging:**

Exams are performed on a scheduled appointment basis every Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 am – noon.