

UW HEALTH JOB DESCRIPTION

CARDIAC SONOGRAPHER

Job Code: 610009	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt	Mgt. Approval: R Wieczorek	Date: Oct 2022
Department: Echo/Vascular Lab/3032105		HR Approval: A Phelps Revolinski	Date: Oct 2022

JOB SUMMARY

The Cardiac Sonographer independently performs professional level assessments and a variety of non-invasive studies using ultrasound and related diagnostic technology as appropriate and records the results and clinical preliminary impressions as indicated. The results of these exams are used to direct the course of patient care. The sonographer uses cognitive sonographic skills to identify, record, and adapt procedures as appropriate to evaluate anatomical, pathological, diagnostic disease processes.

The sonographer assists with transthoracic echo, transesophageal and stress testing; dobutamine, treadmill exercise stress echo, and bicycle ergometry. The sonographer communicates preliminary impressions of examination results to reading and supervising physicians. All examinations are performed within standard protocols on adults and geriatric patients, and occasionally on adolescents and pediatric age groups. The sonographer performs examinations using both stationary and portable equipment.

The sonographer serves as a clinical instructor for the UW School of Ultrasound, and participates in the instruction of fellows, residents, and visiting physicians. The sonographer may also participate in clinical research and acts as a clinical resource to staff at their own facility and throughout the system.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Echocardiography:

- Place EKG leads in appropriate positions for cardiac monitoring during examinations.
- Use both color flow and spectral Doppler to accurately evaluate cardiac stenotic and regurgitant lesions, and intracardiac shunts and other hemodynamically significant lesions.
- Respond to emergency examinations in the department and in the hospital setting to intensive care units, other nursing wards, emergency room, cardiac cath lab, and operating room.
- Evaluate the hemodynamic significance of various cardiac disease states using all imaging modalities available in accordance with the department's protocols.
- Calculate measurements of echocardiographic structures and Doppler signals, deriving the appropriate indices pertinent to each patient.
- Operate ultrasound system and assist exercise physiologist and RN during dobutamine and stress echocardiography.
- Perform contrast administration and agitated saline bubble studies. When needed initiate IV placement.
- Inform interpreting physician if an abnormal finding and/or a hemodynamically significant change is present from previous examination.
- Process patient and submit final data.

General Clinical Activities:

- Review patient's medical record to obtain necessary clinical information including patient history, lab results, and physician orders. Obtains necessary clinical information from patients and compares requisitions to physicians' orders to ensure exam accuracy.
- Communicate to patient and family members in a timely and thorough manner that enhances the patient experience and promotes learning to understand procedures, symptoms, and to support health care outcomes.
- Communicate pertinent patient information to physicians and appropriate team members including abnormal findings and changes in test results from previous examinations.
- Prepare written preliminary impressions of tests performed.
- Provide emergency care for patients using the basic support protocols until a CODE team or EMR professional response team arrives.
- Request work orders for maintenance of equipment to provide optimal working condition. Order and replace supplies used. Keep exam area and procedure room stocked and clean.
- Accurately process data needed to complete the report template in the electronic reporting tool.
- Accurately complete billing for the procedures being completed.

Education:

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- Maintain professional CME's requirements set forth by accrediting and/or registering bodies.
- Provide training to nursing personnel and other technologists, ultrasound students, medical students, residents, fellows and nursing students, regarding non-invasive testing.
- Provide orientation to residents and medical students on diagnostic techniques used in the lab.
- Meet continuing medical education requirements according to the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.
- Attend local, regional and national conferences to obtain up-to-date testing techniques.

ALL DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS MUST BE PERFORMED CONSISTENT WITH THE UW HEALTH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Education	Minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate of an ultrasonography program.
	Preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredited ultrasonography training program. • Bachelor's degree in Ultrasonography, Radiology, Biological Sciences or a relevant health sciences field.
Work Experience	Minimum	
	Preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) years of echocardiography experience
Licenses & Certifications	Minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered in echocardiography (RCS or RDCS) • Basic Life Support/CPR
	Preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered in echocardiography and vascular ultrasound (RCS or RDCS and RVT or RVS)
Required Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate advanced knowledge of cardiac anatomy, physiology, and disease. • Ability to operate ultrasound equipment utilizing a variety of possible techniques. • Ability to adjust equipment/machine settings to obtain optimal diagnostic results. • Ability to perform examinations, recognizing the significance of all structures that are visualized, differentiating artifacts from appropriate images, while recognizing the limitations of equipment and utilizing knowledge of anatomy and physiology. • Ability to communicate critical findings to the interpreting cardiologist. • Demonstrate flexibility performing tests/scans in a variety of clinical environments. • Ability to educate patients and families of safe and appropriate testing; thoroughly explaining procedures, answering questions and calming concerns. • Ability to make knowledgeable clinical assessments and judgments. • Ability to use and apply clinical research findings to identify various intervention techniques or procedures that may need modification. • Ability to maintain composure under stress, using tact and good judgment. • Demonstrate analytical decision-making skills; ability to quickly assess and resolve technical and patient care problems. • Ability to select the proper transducer frequency. • Ability to work both independently and as a care team member. • Ability to interact professionally and develop effective relationships. • Ability to comply with all HIPAA requirements. • Basic computer skills (ability to navigate the computer, internet and keyboarding skills). • Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

AGE SPECIFIC COMPETENCY (Clinical jobs only)

Identify age-specific competencies for direct and indirect patient care providers who regularly assess, manage and treat patients.

Instructions: Indicate the age groups of patients served either by direct or indirect patient care by checking the appropriate boxes below. Next,

	Infants (Birth – 11 months)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adolescent (13 – 19 years)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toddlers (1 – 3 years)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Young Adult (20 – 40 years)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preschool (4 – 5 years)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middle Adult (41 – 65 years)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School Age (6 – 12 years)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Older Adult (Over 65 years)

JOB FUNCTIONS

Review the employee's job description and identify each essential function that is performed differently based on the age group of the patient.

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PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS				
Indicate the appropriate physical requirements of this job in the course of a shift. <i>Note: reasonable accommodations may be made available for individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of this position.</i>				
Physical Demand Level	Occasional Up to 33% of the time	Frequent 34%-66% of the time	Constant 67%-100% of the time	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedentary: Ability to lift up to 10 pounds maximum and occasionally lifting and/or carrying such articles as docket, ledgers and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one, which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required only occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met.	Up to 10#	Negligible	Negligible	
<input type="checkbox"/> Light: Ability to lift up to 20 pounds maximum with frequent lifting and/or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may only be a negligible amount, a job is in this category when it requires walking or standing to a significant degree.	Up to 20#	Up to 10# or requires significant walking or standing, or requires pushing/pulling of arm/leg controls	Negligible or constant push/pull of items of negligible weight	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium: Ability to lift up to 50 pounds maximum with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing up to 25 pounds.	20-50#	10-25#	Negligible-10#	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy: Ability to lift up to 100 pounds maximum with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing up to 50 pounds.	50-100#	25-50#	10-20#	
<input type="checkbox"/> Very Heavy: Ability to lift over 100 pounds with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing over 50 pounds.	Over 100#	Over 50#	Over 20#	
Other - list any other physical requirements or bona fide occupational qualifications not indicated above:				

Note: The purpose of this document is to describe the general nature and level of work performed by personnel so classified; it is not intended to serve as an inclusive list of all responsibilities associated with this position.