

Cardiac Sonography Contrast Injection Scope of Practice - Position Statement

November 2023

The College recognizes that all medical imaging professionals inject contrast media specific to their scopes of practice. Inquires have been made related to the injection of contrast media in echocardiography. The procedure requires an individual to complete the contrast injection while the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer performs the exam. At times, staffing availability can pose challenges to ensuring that a cardio technologist or physician is available to perform this injection.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety of patients and health care providers during imaging procedures. The College understands that in some regions of Nova Scotia, the practice is for other imaging technologists (Nuclear Medicine Technologists, Radiological Technologists and MRI Technologists) to perform the contrast media injection for echocardiology exams. To prevent significant service delivery and access disruptions, which would be contrary to the public interest, the College takes the position that any NSCMIRTP licensed imaging technologist may perform contrast media injections for echocardiology procedures if they are educated, trained, and competent to inject the contrast media associated with the echocardiogram.

Specifically, the echocardiogram is being performed by the sonographer and therefore consent and performance of the exam are the responsibility of the sonographer. Technologists injecting the contrast media are in an assistive role to the sonographer but are responsible to understand the mechanism of action of the contrast media, potential risks, recognized side effects and know the treatments required in the event of a contrast reaction. Technologists assisting sonographers in performing these contrast injections should document training and education they received to perform the echocardiology contrast injection.

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