

CARDIOLOGY TECHNICIAN II

This is skilled technical work in the performance and initial interpretation of exercise stress testing or dynamic electrocardiography (holter monitoring); or functioning as the lead cardiology technician in either the EKG or exercise laboratories. These positions are located within the North Carolina Memorial Hospital. Electrocardiography is the making and study of graphic records produced by electrical currents of the heart used to diagnose cardiac abnormalities. Work requires the employees to schedule patients for their particular tests; provide basic instruction to patients and clinicians; perform the required procedures; and provide initial test interpretations to clinicians. Employees in a lead capacity may be involved in short/long term planning; budget recommendations; training; establishing quality control standards; and participating in all personnel functions. The level is distinguished from the Cardiology Technician I by the level of independence, interpretative requirements and judgment utilized. Work may include other related assignments as determined by management. Work is supervised by the Cardiology Laboratory Supervisor and/or the Cardiology Technician III.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Complexity - Employees working in the exercise laboratory are involved in scheduling exercise tests and selecting the most appropriate stress mechanism; recording electrocardiograms before, during and after cardiovascular stress; calculating heart rates and noting any abnormalities or pertinent information and completing necessary diagnostic documentation for the physician's review. The employees in the lead role will spend a considerable amount of time in performing exercise stress testing in addition to maintaining equipment and supplies; establishing standards; assisting in all personnel functions, and training, staff and clinicians in the exercise functions. Employees working in the holter laboratory are involved in scheduling patients for testing in dynamic electrocardiology; preparing and instructing patients prior to testing; affixing and removing recorders; cleaning, maintaining, and providing minor repair for the holter monitor; scanning the recordings to recognize all significant abnormalities and arrhythmia; interpreting the findings and compiling the preliminary reports for requesting physician; selecting, maintaining, and summarizing representative EKG strips; and writing final summaries of each holter recording. The employees functioning in the lead capacity in the electrocardiograph laboratory spend an equal amount of time in supervisory and technical responsibilities. Employees are responsible for supervising a small number of Cardiology Technicians I in the recording and processing of the standard 12-lead electrocardiograms, vectorcardiograms, and HIS bundle recordings. Employees are involved in scheduling seventeen hour coverage a day; training new employees; providing inservice education sessions; establishing work standards; reviewing quality and quantity of work produce; and participating in all personnel functions.

The employees spend a considerable amount of time in performing and interpreting diagnostic tests. They must exercise and demonstrate an in-depth understanding of indications and contra-indications of electrocardiogram interpretation as it relates either to exercise stress or dynamic electrocardiography. The lead technician roles encompass a working knowledge of administrative procedures and supervisory techniques, as well as the technical knowledge to troubleshoot the tests for other technicians and clinicians.

Guidelines - Employees must have a complete understanding of electrocardiography, cardiovascular exercise, or holter monitoring protocols and procedures. Work operations are usually routine and well understood. Any problems which may occur would be communicated to the supervisor or appropriate Medical Director.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Accountability - Employees have an indirect opportunity to represent the agency by performing and providing initial interpretations of tracings. These recordings are subject to the review of the supervisor or appropriate Medical Director.

Consequence of Action - Inaccurate recording, inattentive scanning, or erroneous interpretation may result in misleading information which could be detrimental to the patients diagnosis and recovery. The lead Cardiology Technician role impacts upon the overall quality and expertise of lower level technicians.

Review - Quality of the records are reviewed by the Medical Director, the supervisor, or a higher level technician. This review may precede the release of the preliminary report to the attending physician.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Subject Matter - The test procedures and results are normally understood by fellow technicians, but may not be understood by same medical staff.

Purpose - Communications are with staff members, doctors and patients to explain procedures or to persuade patients to participate.

IV. WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Nature of Working Condition - Employees work in the EKG Laboratory. The Chief EKG Technician and the Holter Technician may on occasion provide services in clinics, medical units, the emergency room, and other diagnostic laboratories. All employees have direct patient contact.

Nature and Potential of Personal Hazards - Injury or discomfort to the employees are unlikely; however, employees work with electrical equipment and patients with contagious diseases.

V. JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of procedures, techniques, and equipment in electrocardiographic tests; some knowledge of cardiac anatomy, physiology, and disease, and electrocardiographic interpretation; knowledge of the maintenance and operation of EKG and/or stress testing equipment; skill in the operation of electrocardiographic scanning and/or exercise stress testing equipment; ability to gain the confidence and cooperation of patients; and the ability to instruct patients, lower level technicians, and residents in the diagnostic tests performed as well as their interpretation.

Minimum Education and Experience - High school or General Educational Development diploma and two years of experience in electrocardiography; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.