

Allentown, PA – (May 26, 2009) The Heart Care Group, P.C., the largest independent cardiology practice serving the Greater Lehigh Valley, was recently granted re-accreditation by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL). Accreditation status signifies that The Heart Care Group's diagnostic laboratory has been reviewed by an independent agency that recognizes the laboratory's commitment to high quality patient care and quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease.

The ICAEL provides a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the quality echocardiographic diagnostic evaluations by a process of voluntary accreditation. The Heart Care Group laboratory is one of the first one thousand echocardiography laboratories in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico to be recognized at this level.

One American dies every 32 seconds of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. Cardiovascular disease costs society over \$83.7 billion dollars each year in health services, medications and lost work time due to disability. Stroke, a disorder of the blood supply to the brain, is the third leading cause of death and disability in this country, with 500,000 new strokes occurring annually. Each year, 2 million people in the United States alone develop deep vein thrombosis – blood clots in the veins. This affliction becomes life threatening when the clot breaks loose and travels to the lungs. Simple diagnostic procedures, such as an echocardiography examination, nuclear cardiology testing, and noninvasive vascular testing help physicians detect the presence of cardiovascular disease, discover important information regarding the occurrence of future heart attacks, and identify the risk for stroke.

About The Heart Care Group, P.C.

A full service practice, The Heart Care Group, P.C., provides cardiovascular services from prevention and diagnosis through disease management and cardiac interventions that places the patients' health and well being above all other considerations. Their cardiologists serve the Greater Lehigh Valley and surrounding communities from several offices and most regional hospitals.

About the ICAEL

The ICAEL was established with the support of the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography (SOPE) to provide a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality echocardiographic diagnostic evaluations by a process of voluntary accreditation. A non-profit organization, the ICAEL is dedicated to ensuring high quality patient care and to promoting health care.

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