



ACE Advisor

Issue: #1

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"All leading cath labs should be accredited by ACE."

Jeff Marshall, MD

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A Message from our CMO

By Bonnie Weiner, MD

Welcome to the **ACE ADVISOR!** 2013 has been an exciting year for ACE -- our clients will double this year and we expect this trend to continue in 2014. We also accredited our first international facility, demonstrating that quality is a universal goal. We are launching the **ACE ADVISOR** newsletter and the [ACE video series](#), including **E3: More than Peer Review** (launched August 2013) and **ACE Accreditation. Physician Talk: 3 Common CCL Issues** (September 2013). In October we shared single center data presented in an ACE Accreditation video. These are tools to spread the word and share successes, tips and tricks from our accredited facilities.



King Faisal

ACE clients report that in these times of extreme pressure and an intense level of scrutiny in US cardiac cath labs, the cost/benefit of ACE accreditation is difficult to precisely calculate. However, one cath lab director, featured in the *ACE Accreditation. Physician Talk: 3 Common CCL Issues* video series shared five metrics with the audience at an ACE breakfast symposium held at the SCAI meeting in May, 2013. Dr. David Wohns (Spectrum Health) presented data showing that DES usage had dropped from 1.7 to 1.4 stents per patient in 2011 and 2012, respectively, FFR use had increased from 40 procedures in 2011 to 430 in 2012, overall AUC appropriateness had increased to 94% in 2012 (NCDR reference point - 89%) and documentation not classifiable (missing data) had dropped to 2.8% (NCDR reference point - 8%).

The fifth metric is tough to quantify but is the most rewarding to learn. Dr. Wohns shared that the Interventional Cardiology (IC) weekly group meeting went from being the least attended/most avoided to "our favorite meeting," showing randomly selected, blinded cases. The IC team learned, through ACE accreditation, how to rate each case for appropriateness in an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect. The quest for quality doesn't get much better than this.



Call us today to learn
how we can help you
bring your cath lab
from good to GREAT!

(202) 657-6859



Available for Free Download: ACE Publishes New Accreditation Standards

By Mary Heisler

This summer, ACE updated the ACE standards for coronary intervention procedures to provide new tools to assess your invasive CV program. They are available for free [download](#) to provide your cath lab the opportunity to address concern about quality of care.

ACE updated its [Cath/PCI standards](#) to reflect the recommendations in the 2013 ACCF/ AHA/ SCAI Clinical Competence Statement on Coronary Artery Interventional Procedures. "The result is a document that every cath lab should review," said ACE Chief Medical Officer Bonnie H. Weiner, M.D., MSEC, MBA, FSCAI in the SCAI 2013 Fall Newsletter.

"The new standards reflect the latest recommendations on physician training and competency. They are the backbone of ACE's accreditation and peer review services," she added. "Examining your cath lab against these benchmarks is a first step toward ensuring your cath lab will withstand the scrutiny everyone in health care is under."

ACE currently offers two options:

- Cath Lab Accreditation
- E³: *More than Peer Review*

"Whether you are seeking accreditation or peer review, ACE works with your leadership team to develop comprehensive procedure reports and meet today's stringent documentation requirements, including AUC," added SCAI Immediate Past President J. Jeffrey Marshall, M.D., FSCAI, in the SCAI 2013 Fall Newsletter. His cath lab, [Northeast Georgia Medical Center](#), Gainesville, GA sought and earned accreditation for both its PCI and carotid artery stenting programs.

All ACE reviews include an action plan to help cath lab teams address opportunities for improvement. ACE also offers customized project-based or ongoing review services called E³: *More than Peer Review*, as needed for:

- Focused Professional Physician Review (FPPE)
- Independent External Reviews Covering:
 - Angiographic Reviews
 - AUC Reviews
 - Data Integrity Audits

According to a number of ACE clients, E³: *More than Peer Review* is the best insurance policy to purchase for their services. ACE developed E³ to assess a program's invasive work without bias and take the politics out of the organization's peer review processes. ACE cardiologists work with each client's team to help identify opportunities for improvement: evaluate image quality, technique, accuracy of findings, and treatments; and if desired, assess appropriate use.

How and why the interventional cardiovascular community should use ACE's accreditation and peer review services is the subject of a 3-part series on Peer Review beginning with *Why Is Peer Review Important?*, a new [video series](#) featuring ACC Past President and SCAI Trustee Ralph G. Brindis, M.D., MPH, MACC, FSCAI.

To view the entire 3-part series, also featuring Peter C. Block, MD, FSCAI, Professor of Medicine and Cardiology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Charles E. Chambers, MD, FSCAI, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA, and Joseph D. Babb, MD, FSCAI, East Carolina Heart Institute, [click here](#).

ACE Advisor: What's New?

Take note! It's been a busy season at ACE. Growing awareness of accreditation and external review services ACE provides to the cardiac cath lab (CCL) has been building exciting momentum throughout the summer months. Highlights below:

- Physicians have opinions on ACE accreditation and external review, and shared their ACE experiences at the 2013 SCAI meeting. View videos [here](#).
- [View](#) the latest list of ACE-accredited cath lab facilities.
- [Cath Lab Digest](#) has published a new article on Lawrence General Hospital and how they sought ACE accreditation to prove their competitive capabilities in Massachusetts, demonstrating that lower cost of local care does not jeopardize quality outcomes.

ACE has updated published standards for cardiac intervention procedures and these are now available for [download](#) on the [ACE website](#). ACE updated its Cath/PCI standards to align with the recently published clinical competency document for PCI which includes information on physician training, clinical competency criteria and the updated expert consensus document published in 2012. Driven by the latest available science, this is the first major change to cardiovascular intervention standards to be produced. Read more about the new standards in the *ACE Advisor*.

A video series featuring physician opinions on ACE accreditation and external review, taped during the 2013 Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) Scientific Sessions in Orlando, FL have been regularly released since mid-August. To check out the videos in this series: E3: *More Than Peer Review* or ACE Accreditation, [click here](#).

We're thrilled to announce the latest facilities that have merited accreditation with ACE:

- King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre (KFSHRC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia is the first international facility to be accredited by ACE. KFSHRC decided to seek accreditation with ACE because we are the *only* accreditation system that provides cardiac cath lab certification and we could validate their processes based on global best practice.

- St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, NY is distinguished amongst its peers by being the first hospital in New York to accomplish ACE Cath/PCI accreditation.
- Franciscan St. Francis, Indianapolis, IN highlights its quality program of excellence by achieving Carotid Artery Stenting accreditation.
- Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence, MA is the first hospital in New England to achieve ACE accreditation.

Validating that patients can get quality care right in their own community, Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence, MA, completed the ACE accreditation process to show that the lower cost of local care does not jeopardize quality outcomes. Adjacent to nationally-recognized hospitals and research centers in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lawrence General Hospital maintains a leadership role in best practice implementation. You can read all about it in the October issue of [Cath Lab Digest](#).

Upcoming Quality Events in Cardiovascular Medicine

By Marcia Schallehn, ACE Director, Strategic Marketing

INTERESTED IN THE LATEST IN AUC AND QUALITY INITIATIVES?

Upcoming educational events in quality program management at TCT-25, October 27-November 1, 2013 in San Francisco, CA. Be sure to stop by the ACE booth to learn about the updated ACE standards and our quality programs. ACE looks forward to seeing you there!

Highlights of the TCT program include:

Quality sessions at TCT-25:

Monday, October 28, 2013

- 22nd Annual Nurse & Technologist Symposium, Session II
 - Breakout Symposium I: Great Debates, 3:42 - 4:30 p.m.
 - Appropriate Use Criteria Segment
 - Pro: Gregory J. Dehmer, MD, FACC, FACP, FAHA, FSCAI
 - Con: Dr. Paul S. Teirstein, MD, FSCAI
 - Moderator: Russell A. Brandwein, Panel
 - Moderator: Susan J. Schnell
 - Breakout Symposium II: 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.
 - Meeting Appropriateness Criteria & Quality Metrics in Today's Cath Lab
 - Dr. Peter L. Duffy, MD, MMM, FACC, FSCAI

External Reviews

By Sheree Schroeder, MSN, RN, RDCS, FASE,
ACE Director, Peer Review Programs

Today, cardiology procedures are scrutinized more than ever, creating an imperative to ensure high-quality programs. Implementing a proactive external review program for your cardiovascular program is one of the key elements to ensure quality outcomes. Learn more about the **ACE E3: More Than Peer Review Program** and how ACE can take your cath lab from good to **GREAT** in achieving quality patient care.

Organizational and personal risk can be mitigated by proactively performing peer review to objectively identify opportunities to ensure optimal outcomes. Internal peer review processes are critical; however, external validation may compliment these processes. The most objective method for validating a peer review program is to partner with an organization that includes cardiology expertise such as the ACE E³ Expert External Evaluation program. In this program, ACE expert cardiologists guide the development of an integrated quality program by providing a thorough and in-depth review of images, process, documentation and outcomes to engage physicians in achieving consensus in securing Cardiac Cath Lab (CCL) quality. Clinician experts collaborate from within the physician team, helping to reduce complexity and focus the CCL on vital quality indicators. ACE E³ peer review integrates Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) standardization, eliminates bias and validates quality of invasive cardiology patient services. ACE cardiology external review experts recommend a process that is performed, discussed and implemented at all levels and amongst all disciplines within the cardiovascular program.

Validating documentation and CCL practices and outcomes are the foundation of value-based care. Objective, external peer review supports the ongoing management of quality patient care and removes the "politics" from internal Peer Review for your organization. ACE E³: *More Than Peer Review* services are affordable, confidential, customizable and timely.

Learn more about it: ACE 3-part [video series](#) on Peer Review:

Peer Review: Why Is It Important?
With Dr. Brindis

Peer Review: What It Will Do For Your Cath Lab
With Drs. Block and Chambers

Peer Review: A Physician's Perspective
With Dr. Babb