

EKG Guidance

Understanding the Exam

An EKG (electrocardiogram) is used to record the electrical activity in the heart. It is used to detect heart problems such as irregular heartbeats, heart attacks, and heart failure. A doctor may order an EKG for patients with chest pain, shortness of breath, or as part of a routine physical.

The exam typically lasts around 5-10 minutes.

Performing and Approving Users

		Required Credentials	Common Additional Credentials
Performed by	EKG Technologist	EKG technologists hold Certified EKG Technician (CET) credentials.	
Read by	Cardiologist	Typically, board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) or the American College of Cardiology (ACC) in internal medicine and at least one cardiac sub-specialty	

Facility Types

This type of study is performed in these facility types:

- Clinics
- Community hospitals
- Emergency rooms
- Outpatient imaging centers
- Public health facilities
- University-affiliated teaching hospitals and medical institutions

Worksheet

Measurements and Observations

- Record observations in the drop-down fields.
- If the EKG device sends DICOM when the study is transferred to the Studycast account, some observations will be automatically populated.
- Images containing the EKG reading are attached to the study and can be viewed in the Attachments section of the worksheet.

Findings

- Each observation in the worksheet generates a statement.
- If you agree with the findings

Demo/Training

- Explain that if the EKG equipment can send DICOM, then the EKG tracing can be transmitted directly to the Studycast account.
- If the EKG equipment does not send to a DICOM destination then, either the printout can be scanned in or the file that is generated can be added as an attachment. Demonstrate how you can view it in the Attachments panel in the worksheet. Quickly demonstrate the controls and navigation.
- If the physician agrees with the auto-interpretation after viewing the tracing, (s)he can select **Agree and Reviewed** from the Test Results drop-down (it's faster if you select the field and Type A). Then, generate the findings and recommendations and click Approve. EKG is high-volume/low reimbursement, so speed is important.
- Open the report and show the facility's logo, findings, and recommendations on the first page. The EKG tracing will be on subsequent pages.
- Return to the worksheet and demonstrate how to modify the observation fields if you don't agree with the auto-interpretation. Include a follow-up in the Test Results field and show that it appears in the Recommendation statements. Open the report and note the findings and recommendations.

Report

Reports are designed to meet requirements from

- **IAC:** Intersocietal Accreditation Commission
- **ASNC:** American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
- **ASE:** American Society of Echocardiography

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
1. Allows exams to be approved in 3 clicks if physician agrees with auto-interpretation.	1. Cannot edit auto-interpretation on the actual tracing.
Opportunities	Threats
1.	1.