Purpose: Clinical competency is essential in performing and interpreting Cardiac Stress Test to assure that all approved providers follow guidelines established by the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American Heart Association (AHA). Continuous quality improvement is performed to assure compliance with established standards and action is taken to correct any deficiencies.

Policy: Cardiac Stress Tests are supervised by trained Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) and/or physicians with training and board certification in Cardiology (Cardiologist\(^1\)). Interpretation, analysis and reporting of Cardiac Stress Tests are performed by Cardiologist only.

Procedure:
A. Initial and ongoing clinical competency for supervision of Cardiac Stress Testing (Exercise and Pharmacological)
   1. An APN with experience in cardiovascular care are trained by Cardiologist for a minimum of 30 exams. After satisfactory completion, an additional 10-20 exams are performed under the direct supervision of a Cardiologist.
   2. The Medical Director of Non-Invasive Cardiology and/or Chief of Cardiology review the competencies of the APN and outcome of their training before the APN is permitted to supervise Cardiac Stress Tests independently with an assigned Cardiology available in the hospital.
   3. Ongoing clinical competency is met by the Medical Director of Non-Invasive Cardiology and/or Chief of Cardiology who will observe the APN during supervision of Cardiac Stress Tests for minimum of 5 studies annually.
   4. Any findings affecting patient care will be discussed with the APN for appropriate retraining if indicated.

B. Initial and ongoing clinical competency for supervision, interpretation, analysis, and reporting of Cardiac Stress Testing (all modalities) by Cardiologist.
   1. Cardiologist at time of initial appointment provide evidence of successful completion of accredited fellowship in cardiovascular disease and current certification or in tracking process leading to subspecialty certification in cardiovascular training in supervision, interpretation, analysis and
reporting of Cardiac Stress Testing according to ACC/AHA Clinical Competency.

2. Ongoing competency is met through performing a minimum of 25 Cardiac Stress Tests annually. Physicians who do not meet the minimum procedural count at ARMC may provide proof of studies performed at other facilities where they practice. If the Cardiologist is unable to provide proof of meeting the minimum number of studies to meet interpretative requirements, reading privileges may be revoked until minimum volume is met through mentoring, retraining, or validation of competency.

3. The Cardiologist participate in a peer review process that includes an over-read of randomly selected studies each quarter by the Medical Director of Non-Invasive Cardiology and/or Chief of Cardiology and/or peer performing Cardiologist. Any discrepancies affecting clinical patient care will be discussed with the interpreting Cardiologist and appropriate intervention taken.

4. Cardiologist interpreting, analyzing and reporting on Cardiac Stress Test are expected to complete and sign the report in less than 48 hours from the time the study was ordered. Compliance with this standard is monitored.

5. The Division of Cardiology and various cardiology committees i.e. Non Invasive Cardiology and Cardiology Mortality and Morbidity provided regular feedback regarding advancements and training opportunities for to continually improve Cardiac Stress Testing.

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1 In accordance with ARMC Medical Staff Bylaws 3.2-1 Criteria for Membership

**DEFINITIONS:**

AtlantiCare: AtlantiCare is defined as AtlantiCare Health System, Inc., or AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, or AtlantiCare Behavioral Health, Inc., or AtlantiCare Foundation, Inc., or AtlantiCare Health Plans, Inc., or AtlantiCare Health Services, Inc., or AtlantiCare Surgery Center, LLC, or InfoShare, or any AtlantiCare affiliate.
**ATLANTICARE HEALTH SYSTEM**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT: Cardiac Diagnostics</td>
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<td>CATEGORY: Provision of Care</td>
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**POLICY and PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

| SUBJECT: Clinical Competency Criteria for Stress Testing |

**AtlantiCare affiliate:** AtlantiCare affiliate is defined as an organization associated with another AtlantiCare organization as a subordinate, subsidiary, or member.