This Sample Cases document contains three examples of cases you will see on the Electrocardiogram (ECG) and Imaging Studies component of the Cardiovascular Disease Certification Examination. The first is an ECG case, the second is an echocardiogram case, and the third is a coronary angiogram case. Correct answers for these sample cases are discussed on page 15 - 18.

An answer option list is provided for each case, representing a comprehensive list of findings that may be obtained on an ECG, an echocardiogram, or an angiogram. Each case has a patient description at the top of the answer option list and a “Figure/Media” button to access the image(s).

You should interpret the cases as you would in everyday practice. It is suggested that you first read the patient description and interpret the image(s), identifying any abnormalities. You should then find and select the appropriate answer option(s) that correspond to your findings.

As in real life, a clinical diagnosis frequently is not possible without additional clinical data. You should identify only those findings that are definite and that you consider important. The examination is not an exercise in identifying minutiae or clinically unimportant details; rather, it is an exercise in identifying those findings that are clearly apparent and significant to patient management.

Correct answers for some cases will include options from several sections; within a section, it may be appropriate to select more than one option. However, a selection of options from all sections is not required for each case. Your score for each case depends on selection of the option(s) that correctly describe(s) the findings. A correct selection may be invalidated by 1) selecting options that could lead to an incorrect interpretation, or 2) selecting mutually exclusive options that could not coexist with the correct findings.

Note: This document contains only still-frame images; however, the actual Imaging Studies component of the exam and the Exam Tutorial contain moving images. In addition, the answer options in this document are not selectable. The tutorial available will have full functionality that will be similar to what you will see on the actual exam.

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The Electrocardiogram (ECG) section of the Cardiovascular Disease Certification examination is designed to test your ability to interpret electrocardiograms.

Pages 3 - 4 show a patient description and the Figure/Media which appear at the top of the comprehensive list of answer options you will see with each ECG case. The answer options are grouped in the following sections: General Features and P Wave Abnormalities; Rhythms; AV Conduction; Voltage or Axis/Hypertrophy; Intraventricular Conduction; Myocardial Infarction; ST, T, U Wave Abnormalities; Clinical Disorders; and Pacemaker Function.

Read the patient description and review the Figure/Media to interpret the image, identifying any abnormalities. Select the appropriate answer option(s) that correspond to your findings.

Correct answers for some cases may include choices from several sections; within a section, it may be appropriate to select more than one option. However, a selection of answer options from all sections is not required for each case.

The goal is not to identify every normal finding, nor is this an exercise in identifying minutiae or clinically unimportant details. If you believe there is insufficient data or evidence for a feature or an abnormality, make no selection(s) in that section.
The Echocardiogram portion of the Imaging Studies section of the examination is designed to test your ability to interpret echocardiograms.

Pages 6 - 9 show a patient description and the Figure/Media which appear at the top of a comprehensive list of answer options with each echocardiogram case. The answer options are grouped in the following sections: Left Ventricle; Right Ventricle; Atria; Valvular Heart Disease; Cardiomyopathy and Systemic Disease; Pulmonary/Aorta; Pericardial/Pleural Diseases; and Congenital Heart Disease.

Read the patient description and review the Figure/Media to interpret the images, identifying any abnormalities. Select the appropriate answer option(s) that correspond to your findings.

Correct answers for some cases may include choices from several sections; within a section, it may be appropriate to select more than one option. However, a selection of answer options from all sections is not required for each case.

The goal is not to identify every normal finding, nor is this an exercise in identifying minutiae or clinically unimportant details. If you believe there is insufficient data or evidence for a feature or an abnormality, make no selection(s) in that section.

All modalities of transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiograms may be presented, and all views will be appropriately labeled. On occasion, off-axis or unusual views may be used to highlight a relevant pathology or finding. Vertical markings on M-mode frames represent 1-cm increments; however, precise measurements are not required.
Echocardiogram Sample Case: A 63-year-old man with pulmonary edema and chest pain

**LEFT VENTRICULAR SIZE, FUNCTION, AND STRUCTURE**
- **LV Size**
  - Normal
  - Enlarged
  - Small
  - Ruptured papillary muscle

- **LV Infarct Complications**
  - Ventricular septal rupture
  - Free wall rupture

- **LV Wall Thickness**
  - Normal
  - Concentric increase
  - Asymmetric septal hypertrophy

**LV Diastolic Function**
- Normal
- Grade 1 (abnormal relaxation)
- Grade 2 (pseudonormal)
- Grade 3 (restrictive)

**LV Ejection Fraction**
- Normal to hyperdynamic (>=50%)
- Mild to moderately reduced (35-49%)
- Severely reduced (<35%)

**Regional Wall Motion Abnormalities**
- Anterior
- Septal
- Lateral
- Inferior/Posterior
- Apical
  - Hypokinesis
  - Akinesis
  - Thinning and/or scar
  - Aneurysm
  - Pseudoaneurysm
  - Ischemia (with stress testing)
  - Viability (with stress testing)

**RIGHT VENTRICULAR SIZE, FUNCTION, AND STRUCTURE**
- **LV Masses**
  - LV mass or thrombus
  - Metastatic tumor

**DISEASES OF THE ATRIA**
- Enlarged left atrium
- Enlarged right atrium
- Atrial myxoma
- Atrial thrombus
- Metastatic tumor
- Atrial septal lipomatous hypertrophy

**PERICARDIAL AND PLEURAL DISEASES**
- Pericardial effusion without tamponade
- Tamponade
- Pericardial mass or hemopericardium
- Pericardial constriction
- Pericardial cyst
- Pleural effusion

**TYPES OF CARDIOMYOPATHY**
- Hypertrophic
- Apical hypertrophic
- Restrictive
- ARVD
- Dilated
- Noncompaction
- Takotsubo (stress induced)

**SYSTEMIC DISEASE**
- Amyloid
- Hypersensitivity

**VALVULAR HEART DISEASE**
- **Mitral Valve**
  - Calciﬁed
  - Rheumatic
  - Cleft
  - Vegetation
  - Prolapsee
  - Flail
  - Fibroelastoma
  - Abscess
  - Systolic anterior motion (SAM)

- **Aortic Valve**
  - Calciﬁed
  - Rheumatic
  - Bicuspid
  - Vegetation
  - Fibroelastoma
  - Abscess

- **Prosthetic Valve Present**
  - Normal function (includes normal gradients and closing jets)
  - Pathologic regurgitation
  - Pervascular regurgitation
  - Elevated gradients
  - Obstruction due to thrombus or pannus
  - Dehiscence
  - Prosthetic valve endocarditis

- **Pulmonic Valve**
  - Congenitally abnormal
  - Carcinoid

- **Tricuspid Valve**
  - Fails to coapt
  - Carcinoid
  - Vegetation
  - Prolapsee
  - Flail

**PULMONARY DISEASE**
- Findings consistent with acute pulmonary embolism
- Findings consistent with pulmonary hypertension

**DISEASES OF THE AORTA**
- Marfan syndrome
- Type A dissection
- Type B dissection
- Intramural hematoma
- Aortic ulcer
- Aortic enlargement or aneurysm
- Aortic rupture
- Sinus of Valsalva aneurysm
- Sinus of Valsalva rupture
- Coarctation
The Angiogram portion of the Imaging Studies section of the examination is designed to test your ability to interpret coronary angiograms.

Pages 11–14 show a patient description and the Figure/Media which appear at the top of a comprehensive list of answer options with each angiogram case. The option list is divided into five (5) columns corresponding to the coronary arteries and to bypass grafts: Left main, Left anterior descending, Left circumflex, Right, and Bypass graft. The option list also includes selections for stents (both patent and occluded).

For each diseased vessel shown in a case, you must indicate the degree of the most severe stenosis. If an intracoronary thrombus is present, include the thrombus in your assessment of the degree of stenosis. Correct answers also may include options for other findings.

Read the patient description and review the Figure/Media to interpret the image(s), identifying any abnormalities. Select the appropriate answer option(s) that correspond to your findings.

Correct answers for some cases may include options from several columns; however, a selection of answer options from all columns is not required for each case.

**NOTE:** If you select the answer option labeled “Normal” for a case, select no other options.
NOTE: You must select a description for the degree of the most severe stenosis in each diseased vessel shown.

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<th>Description</th>
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SCORING OF SAMPLE CASES

**Electrocardiogram:** The correct answer for this case is Sinus rhythm (found in the Rhythms section) **AND** Wolff-Parkinson-White pattern (found in the AV Conduction section). You must select both answer choices in order to receive a correct score for this case. Selecting Lateral myocardial infarction, recent or acute, **OR** Lateral myocardial infarction, indeterminate or old, would invalidate your answer. Page 16 shows the appearance of the option list with the correct answers selected.

**Echocardiogram:** The correct answer for this case is ruptured papillary muscle [found in the Left Ventricle section]. Selecting mitral valve vegetation [found in the Valvular Heart Disease section] would invalidate your answer. You would receive a second point for selecting inferior/posterior hypokinesis **OR** inferior/posterior akinesis [found in the Left Ventricle section]. You would receive a third point for selecting enlarged left atrium [found in the Atria section] **AND** severe mitral valve regurgitation [found in the Valvular Heart Disease section]. Page 17 shows the appearance of the option list with the correct answers selected.

**Angiogram:** The correct answers for this case are insignificant stenosis of the left circumflex coronary artery **AND** insignificant stenosis of the right coronary artery **AND** severe stenosis of the left anterior descending coronary artery. You must select all three answer choices in order to receive a correct score for this case. Page 18 shows the appearance of the answer option list with the correct answers selected.
### General Features & P Wave Abnormalities
- Normal ECG
- Normal variant
- Incorrect electrode placement
- Artifact

### P Wave Abnormalities
- Right atrial abnormality/enlargement
- Left atrial abnormality/enlargement

### Atrioventricular Conduction
- AV block, 1st
- AV block, 2nd - Mobitz type I (Wenckebach)
- AV block, 2nd - Mobitz type II
- AV block, 2:1
- AV block, 3rd
- Wolf-Parkinson-White pattern
- AV dissociation

### Intraventricular Conduction
- RBBB, complete
- RBBB, incomplete
- Left anterior fascicular block
- Left posterior fascicular block
- LBBB, complete
- LBBB, incomplete
- Aberrant conduction (including rate-related)
- Intraventricular conduction disturbance, nonspecific type

### Rhythms
#### Atrial Rhythms
- Sinus rhythm
- Sinus arrhythmia
- Sinus bradycardia (<60)
- Sinus tachycardia (>100)
- Sinus pause or arrest
- Sinoatrial exit block
- Atrial premature complexes
- Atrial tachycardia
- Atrial tachycardia, multifocal
- Supraventricular tachycardia
- Atrial flutter
- Atrial fibrillation

#### AV Junctional Rhythms
- AV junctional premature complexes
- AV junctional escape complexes
- AV junctional rhythm/tachycardia

#### Ventricular Rhythms
- Ventricular premature complexes
- Ventricular parasystole
- Ventricular tachycardia (3 or more consecutive complexes)
- Accelerated idioventricular rhythm
- Ventricular escape complexes or rhythm
- Ventricular fibrillation

### Voltage or Axis/Hypertrophy
#### Abnormal QRS Voltage or Axis
- Low voltage, limb leads
- Low voltage, precordial leads
- Left axis deviation (> -30°)
- Right axis deviation (> +100°)
- Electrical alternans

#### Ventricular Hypertrophy
- Left ventricular hypertrophy
- Right ventricular hypertrophy
- Combined ventricular hypertrophy

### Myocardial Infarction
- Age recent, or probably acute
- Age indeterminate, or probably old

#### Location
- Anterolateral
- Anterior or anteroseptal
- Lateral
- Inferior
- Posterior

### ST, T, U Wave Abnormalities
- Normal variant, early repolarization
- Normal variant, juvenile T waves
- Nonspecific ST and/or T wave abnormalities
- ST and/or T wave abnormalities suggesting myocardial ischemia
- ST and/or T wave abnormalities suggesting myocardial injury
- ST and/or T wave abnormalities suggesting electrolyte disturbances
- ST and/or T wave abnormalities secondary to hypertrophy
- Prolonged Q-T interval
- Prominent U waves

### Clinical Disorders
- Brugada syndrome
- Digitalis toxicity
- Torsades de pointes
- Hyperkalemia
- Hypokalemia
- Hypercalcemia
- Hypocalcemia
- Dextrocardia, mirror image
- Acute cor pulmonale including pulmonary embolus
- Pericardial effusion
- Acute pericarditis
- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Central nervous system disorder
- Hypothermia

### Pacemaker Function
- Atrial or coronary sinus pacing
- Ventricular demand pacemaker (VVI), normally functioning
- Dual-chamber pacemaker (DDD), normally functioning
- Pacemaker malfunction, not constantly capturing (atrium or ventricle)
- Pacemaker malfunction, not constantly sensing (atrium or ventricle)
- Paced morphology consistent with biventricular pacing or cardiac resynchronization therapy
Echocardiogram Sample Case: A 63-year-old man with pulmonary edema and chest pain

**LEFT VENTRICULAR SIZE, FUNCTION, AND STRUCTURE**
- **LV Size**
  - Normal
  - Enlarged
  - Small
- **LV Infarct Complications**
  - Ventricular septal rupture
  - Free wall rupture
  - Ruptured papillary muscle
- **LV Wall Thickness**
  - Normal
  - Concentric increase
  - Asymmetric septal hypertrophy
- **LV Masses**
  - LV mass or thrombus
  - Metastatic tumor

**LV Diastolic Function**
- Normal
- Grade 1 (abnormal relaxation)
- Grade 2 (pseudonormal)
- Grade 3 (restrictive)

**LV Ejection Fraction**
- Normal to hyperdynamic (≥50%)
- Mild to moderately reduced (35-49%)
- Severely reduced (<35%)

**Regional Wall Motion Abnormalities**
- Anterior
- Septal
- Lateral
- Inferior/Posterior
- Apical
- Hypokinesis
- Akinesis
- Thinning and/or scar
- Aneurysm
- Pseudoaneurysm
- Ischemia (with stress testing)
- Viability (with stress testing)

**RIGHT VENTRICULAR SIZE, FUNCTION, AND STRUCTURE**
- Enlarged RV
- RV infarct
- Global hypokinesis
- RV volume overload
- RV pressure overload
- Catheter or pacemaker wire
- RV mass or thrombus

**DISEASES OF THE ATRIA**
- Enlarged left atrium
- Enlarged right atrium
- Atrial myxoma
- Atrial thrombus
- Metastatic tumor
- Atrial septal lipomatous hypertrophy

**PERICARDIAL AND PLEURAL DISEASES**
- Pericardial effusion without tamponade
- Tamponade
- Pericardial mass or hemopericardium
- Pericardial constriction
- Pericardial cyst
- Pleural effusion

**TYPES OF CARDIOMYOPATHY**
- Hypertrophic
- Apical hypertrophic
- Restrictive
- ARVD
- Dilated
- Noncompaction
- Takotsubo (stress induced)

**SYSTEMIC DISEASE**
- Amyloid
- Hypereosinophilic

**CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE**
- Patent foramen ovale
- Primum ASD
- Secundum ASD
- Sinus venosus ASD
- Muscular VSD
- Membranous VSD
- Supracristal VSD
- Patent ductus arteriosus
- Subaortic stenosis
- Anomalous coronary artery
- Coronary fistula
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Ebstein’s anomaly
- Complete transposition (D-TGA)
- Corrected transposition (L-TGA)

**VALVULAR HEART DISEASE**

**Structure**
- Mitral Valve
  - Calcified
  - Rheumatic
  - Cleft
  - Vegetation
  - Prolapse
  - Flail
  - Fibroelastoma
  - Systolic anterior motion (SAM)
- Aortic Valve
  - Calcified
  - Rheumatic
  - Bicuspid
  - Vegetation
  - Flail
  - Fibroelastoma
  - Abscess
- Prosthetic Valve Present
  - Normal function (includes normal gradients and closing jets)
  - Pathologic regurgitation
  - Perivalvular regurgitation
  - Elevated gradients
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  - Dehiscence
  - Prosthetic valve endocarditis

**PULMONARY DISEASE**
- Findings consistent with acute pulmonary embolism
- Findings consistent with pulmonary hypertension

**DISEASES OF THE AORTA**
- Marfan syndrome
- Type A dissection
- Type B dissection
- Intramural hematoma
- Aortic ulcer
- Aortic enlargement or aneurysm
- Aortic rupture
- Sinus of Valsalva aneurysm
- Sinus of Valsalva rupture
- Coarctation
**NOTE:** You must select a description for the degree of the most severe stenosis in each **diseased vessel** shown.

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