Letter to the Editor

doi:10.1093/ejechocard/jep100
Online publish-ahead-of-print 22 July 2009

Changes to EAE laboratory accreditation

The EAE standards for laboratory accreditation were published in the *EJE* in January 2007. The pilot phase of the project, run in eight laboratories across Europe, is now reaching completion. The pilot has allowed the Laboratory Accreditation Committee to streamline the process and to ensure that the online application system will work in practice. During the pilot a number of issues have been brought up and these were discussed at the recent meeting of the EAE Board. The Board have suggested a small number of modifications to clarify some issues that were not dealt with in the original article:

1. To obtain laboratory accreditation at Standard Level in TTE, the head of the laboratory or at least one senior member of the staff should have an EAE individual accreditation in TTE or a National Accreditation for which the EAE has a reciprocal arrangement. The same applies for TEE but not for DSE as there is yet no EAE individual accreditation for DSE. Recognizing that this might be a problem for some laboratories, it has been agreed that for the next 2 years a laboratory may be awarded standard level accreditation in TTE and TEE without a member who is EAE accredited but on the condition that the head of the laboratory or at least one senior member of the of the staff must become accredited within the subsequent 2 years. Accreditation will be lost if this requirement is not met.

2. To obtain Advanced Level accreditation in any modality, a laboratory must offer all three modalities and must reach the Advanced standards for TTE.

The application process is now online at: http://www.escardio.org/COMMUNITIES/EAE/ACCREDITATION/Pages/laboratory.aspx

On behalf of the Laboratory Accreditation Committee we would like to express our thanks to the pilot sites, the national societies involved, and the staff at the Heart House who have all worked hard to develop the accreditation process.

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