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## **Carolinas Heart Institute/Sanger Clinic "Echo" Lab Accredited by National Commission**

One American dies every 32 seconds of cardiovascular disease, disorders of the heart and blood vessels. Cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in the United States, costs society more than \$83.7 billion each year in health services, medications and lost work time due to disability.

Cardiac structure and blood flow information that can be obtained by echocardiographic testing is considered very useful in the detection and treatment of many types of heart disease. This noninvasive test has become one of the standard diagnostic tools in cardiology in the U.S. A complex imaging technique, it relies on the training and experience of the physician and the sonographer whose interpretive and technical abilities determine the accuracy of an echocardiogram. Until recently, the difficulty for patient consumers and referring physicians has often been how to know the skills of those professionals. Now the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL) has developed a program to evaluate the quality of these and other critical elements of an echocardiography laboratory.

The Sanger Clinic Ultrasound Laboratory Heart Station located in the Carolinas Heart Institute has been granted accreditation by the ICAEL. It is one of the first 16 echocardiography laboratories in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico to be so recognized for its commitment to high quality patient care and its provision of quality diagnostic testing. Accreditation status signifies that the facility has been reviewed by an independent agency that recognizes the laboratory's commitment to quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease.

Through compassionate patient care, innovative medical procedures and a strong sense of community, the Sanger Clinic has built a reputation of trust and stability in the Carolinas. Founded in 1946 by Paul W. Sanger MD, the Sanger Clinic has grown to include an impressive staff of adult and pediatric cardiologists, and cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeons. With 11 locations in both North and South Carolina, the Sanger

Clinic offers convenient access to heart care. For more information, visit our website at [www.sangerclinic.com](http://www.sangerclinic.com)