

# Educational intervention helps ensure appropriate ECHO use

August 22 2014

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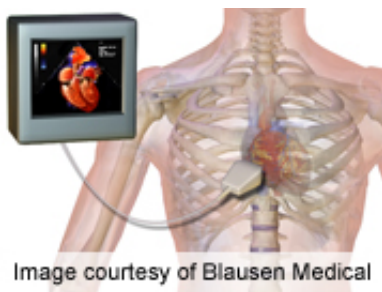


Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

(HealthDay)—An appropriate use criteria (AUC)-based educational intervention can improve the appropriate use of outpatient transthoracic echocardiography (TTE), according to a study published online Aug. 13 in the *JACC Cardiovascular Imaging*.

R. Sacha Bhatia, M.D., M.B.A., from Women's College Hospital in Toronto, and colleagues randomized physicians-in-training to an AUC-based educational [intervention](#) on outpatient TTE ordering or to a control group.

The researchers found that the proportion of cardiology physicians-in-training inappropriately ordering TTE was significantly lower in the intervention than in the control group (13 versus 34 percent; P intervention group was significantly higher (81 versus 58 percent; P

control group (odds ratio, 8.1; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.95 to 69; P = 0.055).

"Six clinical scenarios accounted for 75 percent of all inappropriate TTE, with the three most common inappropriate indications being routine surveillance (

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