Email Discussion Group: July 2009

Take a look at the questions this month and see if you can help answer any of them. You can respond by emailing us at eplabdigest@hotmail.com or also by visiting us at www.eplabdigest.com. Remember, when responding to the discussion group, don’t forget to let us know if you would like your name and/or location listed.

Under Discussion:

Scope of Practice
I am looking for a detailed “Scope of Practice” for the EP/cath lab. I do have the scope of practice offered on the SICP website.

— John J. Simon III, MBA RT (CV) RCC
(To reply to this question, please type “Scope of Practice” in your subject line.)

Startup Policies & Procedures
Our hospital is planning to start an EP program. I am interested in corresponding with EP lab coordinators willing to share information and/or basic policies & procedures in relation to startup efforts. The EP lab is set up, but has been on standby while an EP physician is being sought. Given the possibility of an accelerated startup, I am reaching out for resources and information.

Although I have a number of years’ experience in EP, I have been out of the specialty a few years. I welcome the input and exchange once again with other EP professionals.

— T. Trahan, RT(R), Florida
(To reply to this question, please type “Startup Policies” in your subject line.)

Dear John and T. Trahan,

My response is actually applicable to both questions. SICP is a good resource, but the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) is a more applicable organization. HRS does have some published guidelines for education; off the top of my head, I believe it is 30 cases before you’re on your own, and 30 a year for competency.

As many hospitals seek out other options for additional sources for income, EP services often come up. Starting an EP lab in is in some ways similar to a cath lab, but in many respects it is much different. The technical knowledge and staff involvement for an EP lab is much different than a cath lab. It is in part for this reason that HRS has put forth published recommendations for staff education, training, and scope of practice on their website.

— William Petty

How to Participate in EP Lab Digest’s Email Discussion Group:

• First, see an updated list of discussion questions on www.eplabdigest.com or in any issue of EP Lab Digest.
• Email your EP-related questions and/or responses to “eplabdigest@hotmail.com”, or
• Visit “www.eplabdigest.com”, where you can post comments and responses to questions!

Don’t forget to inform us if you would like your name, location, and email address published, or if you prefer to be listed with your information withheld.

Education & Training Survey
Readers, the purpose of this new survey is to determine if there is a need for formal electrophysiology education for staff. Anyone working in the EP lab can participate. Results will be published in an upcoming issue of EP Lab Digest!

To complete a survey, please visit http://www.eplabdigest.com/articles/Educations-Training-Survey, and email your completed survey to “jelrod@hmpcommunications.com” or fax to 866-488-8273.

1. Are you a: (check all that apply, but also circle what you consider your “dominant” credential)
   □ Manager/Supervisor □ Department Director □ Physician □ Technologist □ Nurse □ Other (please specify)

2. Please indicate your credential(s) (check all that apply):
   □ RN □ CVT □ RT(R) □ CORN □ ROIS □ RCES □ ENT □ ST □ Other (please specify) ____________

3. Years of experience in the EP lab:
   □ Less than 1 □ 1-3 years □ 3-6 years □ 6-10 years □ 10+ years

4. Your primary role:
   □ EP lab tech/nurse □ Cath lab tech/nurse □ EP MD □ Other (please specify) ____________

5. Your region:
   □ Midwest (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, MS, OH, WI) □ Pacific Coast (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)
   □ New England/Middle Atlantic (CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VE)
   □ Middle South/South (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, WV, VA)
   □ Central/Mountain Region/Southwest (AZ, CO, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT)
   □ Other (please specify) ____________

6. Type of facility:
   □ Teaching hospital (cardiology/EP fellows) □ Non-teaching hospital □ Community hospital □ VA hospital
   □ Private practice □ Other (please specify) ____________

7. Is the EP lab separate from the Cath lab? □ Yes □ No

8. If the EP lab is not separate from the Cath lab, are there plans to separate? □ Yes □ No

9. Number of dedicated EP labs:
   □ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ More than 4

10. What type of cases do you perform in your lab? (check all that apply):
    □ Diagnostic EP studies □ Interventional EP studies □ Pacemaker insertions □ Defibrillator insertions
    □ Bi-ventricular device insertions □ Lead extractions

11. Approximate number of total EP cases per month (diagnostic, ablation, implants):
    □ Less than 100 □ 101-300 □ Greater than 300

12. Previous EP education (if MD, please skip):
    □ On-the-job-training □ SICP educational programs specific to EP □ HRS Scientific Sessions
    □ Boston AF Symposium □ SASEAP annual meeting □ Departmental education (staff educator, physician)
    □ Educational programs sponsored by industry □ Other (please specify): __________________________

13. Does staff training/education limit the type of cases that can be performed in your EP lab? □ Yes □ No

14. Does your facility require Cath lab staff to have formal education and become credentialed? □ Yes □ No

15. If a formal, accredited EP education program was available (check all that apply):
    □ I would consider enrolling,
    □ This would be a valuable program for my staff to enroll in,
    □ I do not feel a formal education program would be useful to me.
    □ I do not feel that a formal education program would be useful to my staff.
    □ It would depend on factors such as (please specify): ____________________________

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