



Who is CCI?

Cardiovascular Credentialing International

By Michael C Foster RCS, RDCS

When I was in school, my instructor asked us to think about “What is a profession?”

He quickly started talking about credentialing bodies as a vital part of any profession. As I was in a cardiovascular technology program, he mentioned Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) and the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) when talking about how important it is to have a credential. So, during the last quarter of my program, I was able to sit for the Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) exam.

Over my 13 years at Duke University Health System, I occasionally run into someone who is not familiar with this organization. So, I will take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about CCI.

Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) is a credentialing body for allied health professionals in cardiovascular medicine. This would be persons working in the cath lab, cardiac and vascular ultrasound, ECG, Ambulatory Monitoring, Telemetry, and Phlebotomy.

Originally, they were the National Society of Cardiopulmonary Technology (NSCPT) which began in 1968. About a decade later, in 1981, the American Medical Association (AMA) recognized cardiovascular technology as an allied health profession. In 1988 the organization changed their name to Cardiovascular Credentialing International because they have a vision of providing credentialing exams not only in the U.S., but also across the world.

CCI is accredited by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) which is the only personnel certification accreditation body in the U.S. to meet both nationally and internationally accepted practices for accreditation bodies.

The CCI credentials are recognized by the lab accreditation bodies, reimbursement entities, and the two states that currently require a license for the sonographer/technologist to practice. (Oregon and New Mexico)

Below are some of the organizations that recognize the CCI credentials:

[Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\) Echocardiography \(previously ICAEL\)](#)

Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Vascular Testing (previously ICAVL)

American College of Radiology (ACR) Ultrasound Accreditation program

Contractors of Medicare and Medicaid Services

American Society of Echocardiography

American College of Cardiology

CCI has a long tradition of supporting the professional triad: Professional Organizations, Personnel Credentialing and Education Programs. These are the essential components of a profession. CCI has worked with the professional organizations and the schools to create exams that demonstrate a knowledge, understanding, and competency for the cardiovascular allied professional.

Listed below are the credentials CCI provides:

CCT— Certified Cardiographic Technician CRAT--Certified Rhythm Analysis Technician

RVS—Registered Vascular Specialist RCIS—Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist

RCS—Registered Cardiac Sonographer RPhS—Registered Phlebology Sonographer

RCES—Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist

RCCS—Registered Congenital Cardiac Sonographer

The CCI office is located right here in Raleigh, NC. They are a great bunch of people that work very hard to make sure we are challenged to do our best so that we can help our physicians and patients.

I would encourage you to go to their website at <http://cci-online.org/> and see if they have a credential for you or someone you know. Should you have questions, give them a call. They would love to talk to you about their exams.