

Role Title:

## Highly Specialised Echocardiographer



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**Hours:**

Full time/Part time

**Annual Leave:**

33 days pro rata + bank holidays

**Responsible/Accountable to:**

Verity Williams-Curnow  
Principal Physiologist/Medical Director

**Benefits:**

Travel Expenses, Support with CPD, &  
Membership to professional bodies.  
14 % employer contribution to pension.

**Salary:**

£48,000 pro rata

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Echogenicity is an independent Cornish community echocardiogram service working in partnership with the NHS. We have been scanning Cornwall's hearts for over 15 years, completing over 40 thousand scans in the community. We have reduced the wait for an echocardiogram from in excess of 18 months to approximately two weeks. We have been filmed by the British Heart Foundation as a leading example of a community echocardiogram service. We got a 'Good' for every aspect of our service during a recent CQC inspection (Sept 2019).

We are currently working from thirteen different locations throughout Cornwall: Bodmin, Camborne/Redruth, Helston, Newquay and Stratton Community Hospitals, as well as The Clays Practice, Roche, Wheal Northey Surgery St. Austell, Trescobeas Surgery, Falmouth, Truro Health Park, Pool Health Centre, Pool, Portscatho Surgery the Roseland, the Stennack Surgery, St. Ives and St. Clare's Medical Centre Penzance.

This position will be based in mid and West Cornwall covering Trescobeas Surgery Falmouth, St. Clare's Medical Centre Penzance, Stennack Surgery St. Ives, and Pool Health Centre, Pool.

All reports are reviewed by our consultant cardiologists who gives their clinical advice to the requesting GP. Our consultant cardiologists also provides the community

echocardiogram service with an on-call service so, any emergencies are quickly assessed and dealt with.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic our service has changed; we are currently providing an enhanced cardiology service: we are providing echocardiograms, ECG's, BP's and a consultant cardiologist care plan as standard. All images, ECG's and reports are stored on a secure icloud.

From April 2020 til mid July 2020 Echogenicity provided an enhanced urgent care cardiac service for the whole of Cornwall whilst the local DGH focused on Covid 19 patients. We have since reverted back to our routine work but continue to assist the local DGH with their urgent care as and when necessary, seeing urgent patients again in April 2021 til end of August 2021.

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## Scanning Cornwall's Hearts

We work from Covid Free area's, seeing Covid free patients and clinically vulnerable patients. It is essential that all staff wear full PPE (FFP3 facemasks, visors, full length gowns, hat and gloves). Due to our enhanced clinic's, PPE and cleaning procedures our appointment slots have been extended to 1hr per patient. –

**Main Objectives:**

To work alongside other specialist echocardiography physiologists for the provision of a comprehensive and high quality transthoracic echo service.

To liaise effectively with the principal physiologist to ensure that the service and BSE guidelines are maintained and to make sure that the guidelines are up-to-date and relevant to current clinical and technical practice.

To maintain high standards of clinical practice with evidence via clinical audit.

**Highly Specialist Technical  
Transthoracic Echocardiography**

- Perform transthoracic echocardiograms to a high standard in accordance with BSE guidelines and department minimum standards.
- Identify and advise when transthoracic echocardiography is insufficient to answer the clinical question and proactively suggest and arrange alternative /additional investigations.
- Produce an accurate and comprehensive report for each study, with responsibility for your own caseload.
- Ensure that personal knowledge base is current to reflect change in clinical echocardiography.
- To perform and interpret ECG's and BP readings.

**Other requirements:**

1. To initiate and participate in clinical audit and use results to improve quality of service in echocardiography.
2. To be responsible for the health and safety aspects in the clinical area.
3. To ensure that consent forms are completed by each patient.
4. To wear PPE and follow Echogenicity's Covid 19 policies and procedures.

**Confidentiality**

The post holder must maintain the confidentiality of information about patients, staff and other health service business in accordance with the Data Protection Act of 1984.

**Equal Opportunities**

The post holder must at all times carry-out his/her responsibilities with regard to the Echogenicity's Equal Opportunities Policy.

**Health and Safety**

Employees must be aware of the responsibilities placed upon them under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, to ensure that the agreed safety procedures are carried out to maintain a safe working environment for patients, visitors and employees.

**Smoking Policy**

It is the policy of Echogenicity is to promote health. Smoking therefore, is actively discouraged and is prohibited in the majority of the Hospital, and GP's surgeries.

### **Data Protection Act**

All employees of Echogenicity must not, without prior permission, disclose any information regarding patients or staff. In circumstances where it is known that a member of staff has communicated to an unauthorised person those staff will be liable to dismissal. Moreover, the Data Protection Act 1984 also renders an individual liable for prosecution in the event of unauthorised disclosure of information.

### **Terms and Conditions of Employment**

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and this means that any criminal conviction must be made known at the time of application.

### **Patient's Charter**

We are committed to meeting the rights and standards required by the Patient's Charter. We expect our staff to be aware of these rights and standards and to be fully involved and co-operative in meeting them.

### **Qualifications**

- A degree in Clinical Physiology (cardiology) or equivalent (Essential)
- BSE accreditation (Essential)
- ILS certification (Desirable)

### **Knowledge & Experience**

- Technical/Specialist Broad knowledge of technical cardiology, including practice with a wide array of complex technical echocardiography equipment
- Highly specialist knowledge of Echocardiography investigation, diagnosis and interpretation in all aspects
- Highly developed experience in applying theoretical knowledge into patient care
- Extensive practical experience in technical cardiology for a minimum of 4 years, with at least 2 years at a specialist level of independent practice including investigation, interpretation, reporting and recommending alternative investigations.

- To be able to identify when emergency medical intervention is required and take appropriate action (to follow protocol)

### **Managerial**

Able to exercise initiative when dealing with issues from own specialist area.

Legislation Basic understanding of relevant legislation, national standards, professional and local guidelines e.g. Health and Safety daily contact with body fluids and blood, COSHH, BCS guidelines

### **Skills**

- Regularly responsible for data entry onto computer based systems for reporting, monitoring activity and accurate record keeping Physical Use of fine tools using a high degree of manual dexterity, coordination and sensory skills for patient investigation e.g. cardiac ultrasound scans.
- Occasional requirement to move heavy equipment using safe manual handling technique.
- Mentally: able to concentrate frequently for investigation and reporting e.g. performing ultrasound scans.
- Communication: able to communicate highly complex technical information across professional boundaries including where there is a difference of opinion and evidence base

Understanding of hazards posed by:

- Infectious patients and cross contamination – Covid 19
- Hazardous agents used within technical cardiology
- Contact with aggressive patients

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## **Scanning Cornwall's Hearts**