Increase Your Earnings with Cardiac MRI Certification

Medical professionals use cardiac magnetic resonance imaging to diagnose many heart conditions, including heart failure, coronary heart disease, heart valve defects, inflammation of the cardiac membrane, muscle damage caused by heart attack, and cardiac tumors. The test is less invasive than other procedures and doesn't require the use of iodine-based contrast material, making it an important diagnostic tool. Any technologist or radiologist using cardiac MRI equipment must have the appropriate certification.

Technologist Requirements

MRI technologists must take the national certification examination offered by the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists. The ARMRIT exam consists of 240 questions covering MRI physics, electromagnetism, clinical applications, safety issues, and patient care. Certified technologists must renew their certifications by completing at least six credits of continuing education each year. These credits must pertain to patient care or MRI technology only.

Radiologist Requirements

All radiologists must pass an oral certification examination in diagnostic radiology. The credential is good for 10 years, at which time a radiologist must take another exam to maintain the certification. This computer-based exam is made up of multiple-choice questions based on real radiology cases. Radiologists also have the option of completing a certification in diagnostic medical physics. The certification exam covers the diagnostic applications of ultrasonic radiation, radiation safety, use of magnetic resonance, and the equipment associated with radiation production.

Technologist Certification Preparation

Completing an accredited MRI technology program is one of the best ways to prepare for a career as a cardiac MRI technologist. As of March 2023, there were 15 programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists. Three of these programs are two-year associate degree programs. The rest are certificate programs that last anywhere from one year to 18 months. Each program includes coursework in patient care, principles of MRI, basic medical sciences and imaging procedures.

Radiologist CMR Guidelines

The Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance is a professional organization for physicians, technologists and researchers interested in the cardiac MRI field. SCMR publishes guidelines for cardiac MRI training and practice, updating them regularly to keep up with advances in technology. As per these guidelines, a CMR practitioner should complete at least three months of training with an experienced mentor. This includes a minimum of two months of CMR laboratory training and one month of independent study. Practitioners should also complete at least 50 hours of CMR coursework and supervised interpretation of a minimum of

150 CMR studies. To maintain the skills learned during initial training, a CMR practitioner should complete at least 20 hours of CMR education every two years and interpret at least 100 cardiac cases every two years.