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### **Local Nuclear Laboratory is Accredited**

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, costing society over \$83.7 billion each year in health services, medications and lost work time due to disability. Each year, approximately five and a half million stress nuclear cardiology studies are performed in the US. Both the pump function and the blood flow of the heart are assessed during nuclear cardiology testing procedures. Physicians are then able to detect the presence of cardiovascular disease and may also discover important information regarding the occurrence of future heart attacks. The International Commission of the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) has developed an accreditation program that evaluates the quality of these and other critical elements of nuclear cardiology laboratory.

Cardiac Solutions, an eight physician cardiology practice located in Peoria, AZ, was granted accreditation by the ICANL. The laboratory is one of the first nuclear cardiology laboratories in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico to be recognized for its commitment to high quality patient care and its provision of quality diagnostic testing. The heart is evaluated at rest and during exercise using a small amount of radioisotope during the noninvasive procedure. A complex imaging technique, nuclear cardiology testing relies on the experience and training of both physician and the technologist. Accreditation status signifies that the facility has been reviewed by an independent agency that recognizes the laboratory's commitment to quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease.

The ICANL was established with the support of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, the Society of Nuclear Cardiology, the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section, the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Nuclear Physicians and the Academy of Molecular Imaging. The ICANL provides a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality nuclear cardiology by a process of voluntary accreditation. A non-profit organization, ICANL is dedicated to ensuring high quality patient care and to promoting health care.

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