



April 21, 2020

NOTICE to Cardiovascular Educators and Students

Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) is continuing to evaluate the situation related to COVID-19 and its impact on candidates for our credentialing examinations.

CCI understands that educational programs are relying on alternative approaches for students to complete their requirements to graduate. CCI supports the efforts of programs to determine the best alternatives for students to complete their requirements for graduation (including academic courses and clinical externship hours) under the current conditions.

As your program determines the specific requirements for graduation, CCI's expectations are that programs continue to provide opportunities for knowledge and skills to be developed, and that programs are confident in the competencies of their graduates in order to meet CCI's examination eligibility requirements and to enter the workforce.

Temporary Changes to CCI's Clinical Hours Criteria for 2020 Graduates of Non-Programmatic Accredited Programs

We have received several questions regarding disruptions to students' clinical externships and how this might impact a students' ability to meet certification requirements that include 800 clinical externship hours.

CCI is announcing a temporary modification to qualification prerequisites affecting students enrolled in non-programmatically accredited cardiovascular technology and cardiac and vascular ultrasound programs.

CCI's board has temporarily changed the minimum 800 clinical externship hour requirement to a minimum of 400 clinical externship hours (in the specialty in which the examination is being requested).

This change only impacts candidates applying under the following qualification prerequisites:

- Qualification Prerequisite **RCCS5** for the Registered Congenital Cardiac Sonographer (RCCS) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RCES5** for the Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist (RCES) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RCIS5** for the Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RCS5** for the Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RVS5** for the Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS) exam

Clinical verification letters must be submitted per CCI's guidelines, stating the number of clinical hours completed and the time period during which the clinical hours were completed. For complete CCI guidelines, please download the sample supporting documentation from www.cci-online.org.

This change will only apply to students with graduation dates between March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

CCI remains committed to supporting cardiovascular educational programs and their students during the public health threat of COVID-19.