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## **Southeast Missouri Hospital's Cardiovascular Diagnostic Lab Earns Re-Accreditation**

Southeast Missouri Hospital's Cardiovascular Diagnostic Lab has earned re-accreditation from the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL) for its commitment to providing a high level of patient care and quality testing for the diagnosis of vascular disease.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, costing society over \$83.7 billion annually in health services, medications and lost work time due to disability. Stroke, a disorder of the blood supply to the brain, is the third leading cause of death and disability nationwide, with a half million new strokes occurring annually.

One American dies every 32 seconds from cardiovascular disease and disorders of the heart and blood vessels.

Early detection of these life-threatening vascular diseases is possible through the use of non-invasive vascular testing techniques performed within vascular laboratories.

Southeast's Cardiovascular Diagnostic Laboratory is one of a growing number of vascular labs in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico to meet or exceed the ICAVL standards.

During the accreditation process, every aspect of a lab's daily operations and its impact on the quality of healthcare provided to patients is assessed and reviewed. While completing the application, labs are required to identify and correct potential problems, revise protocols and validate quality assurance programs.

The accreditation is valid for three years. Southeast's lab has been accredited by ICAVL since 1996. Kenneth W. Retter, MD, is Medical Director of the lab.

Southeast's lab also is accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL). This accreditation reflects the lab's commitment to quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease.

"Our accreditations represent Southeast Missouri Hospital's commitment to excellent, quality care for our patients. It is a team effort from dedicated staff and physicians with support from our Administration," says Cardiovascular Services Nurse Manager Cindy Teegarden, RN, BSN, CCRN, RDCS, RVT.

