**Policy: Kidney/Pancreas Pre-Transplant: Cardiology Evaluation Protocol**  
  
**Statement: 1. Activation date:** 02/16/2006  
**2. Affected Department:** Kidney/PancreasTransplant Program and Cardiology at Emory Clinic  
**3. Vision Strategy:** Patient Care  
**4. Policy Statement:** The Emory Transplant Center will comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies regarding patient care.  
**5. Basis**: This policy is necessary for the protection of patients, physicians and staff  
**6. Administrative Responsibility:** Section heads, physicians, practitioners, and staff are responsible for compliance with this policy.  
  
**Scope/Procedure:**  
  
**7. Procedure:**  
  
A. All patients who are evaluated for a kidney/pancreas transplant will have a cardiac work-up as a part of their transplant evaluation.   
  
B. The designated recipient coordinator will ask the patient the following questions to determine if the patient is an eligible candidate for a DSE or whether a transthoracic echocardiogram should be ordered:  
1. Have you had a cardiac catheterization within the last year?  
2. Do you have a history of aortic stenosis?  
3. Do you have a history of atrial fibrillation or arrhythmias?  
4. Are you currently on Coumadin therapy for treatment of atrial fibrillation?  
5. Have you had a stress test this year?  
6. Do you have a pace maker?  
If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, the patient will be scheduled for a transthoracic echocardiogram on day one of their evaluation. All other patients will be scheduled for a DSE.  
  
C. Patients will be scheduled for a DSE/transthoracic echocardiogram at the initial time of scheduling the patient’s evaluation by a medical secretary senior in the kidney/pancreas transplant department.

1. At the initial point of scheduling, the medical secretary senior will inform the patients who are having a DSE to hold all beta-blockers as per the DSE instruction sheet.   
2. The DSE instruction sheet will be mailed to the patient as a part of their evaluation paperwork.

D. The DSE/transthoracic echocardiogram will occur on the first day of the patient’s evaluation after the patient has been seen by the mid-level for an in-depth history and physical. Patients will have their DSE cancelled by the mid-level and will be rescheduled for a transthoracic echocardiogram for the following reasons or as medically indicated:   
1. Audible aortic stenosis on examination  
2. Arrhythmia on the patient’s EKG  
3. Recent cardiac catheterization or thallium stress test  
4. History of aortic stenosis  
5. History of atrial fibrillation and on Coumadin therapy  
  
E. Patients will have their DSE/transthoracic echocardiogram performed in The Emory Clinic Echocardiography Lab/Cardiac Imaging Center located in building A of the Emory Clinic on the tunnel level.

1. If at the time of designated DSE the cardiac imaging center staff is unable to perform the DSE the staff will inform the patient’s recipient coordinator or kidney/pancreas transplant mid-level.   
2. The recipient transplant coordinator will inform the medical secretary senior of the kidney/pancreas transplant department to reorder this testing for another date.

F. The patient’s DSE is positive as determined by the attending cardiologist

1. The Emory Clinic Echocardiography Lab/Cardiac Imaging Center will order the appropriate follow-up testing for this patient.   
2. The Emory Clinic Echocardiography Lab/Cardiac Imaging Center financial staff will be responsible for obtaining financial authorization for the procedures ordered.   
3. The attending cardiologist will inform the kidney/pancreas transplant surgeon of the tests that are being performed for further cardiac evaluation.   
4. The kidney/pancreas transplant surgeon will inform the patient’s recipient transplant coordinator who will inform the patient’s referring nephrologists of these developments via a phone call. The phone call will be documented in OTTR.

G. DSE is Sub-optimal

1. The Emory Clinic Echocardiography Lab/Cardiac Imaging Center will order the appropriate follow-up testing for this patient.   
2. The Emory Clinic Echocardiography Lab/Cardiac Imaging Center financial staff will be responsible for obtaining financial authorization for the procedures ordered.   
3. The attending cardiologist will inform the kidney/pancreas transplant surgeon of the tests that are being performed for further cardiac evaluation.   
4. The kidney/pancreas transplant surgeon will inform the patient’s recipient transplant coordinator who will inform the patient’s referring nephrologists of these developments via a phone call. The phone call will be documented in OTTR.  
5. At the time of patient selection conference, a cardiology consult will be ordered for the patient.  
6. The recipient transplant coordinator will inform the medical secretary senior and the patient of the need to schedule a cardiology consult on day 2 of their evaluation.  
7. The medical secretary senior will schedule a cardiology consult with a cardiology transplant physician, which will occur in the out-patient transplant center on the same day as their scheduled day 2 of transplant evaluation.  
8. The medical secretary senior will send the patient a cardiology questionnaire in the mail, which the patient will be instructed to complete prior to their cardiology consult.

H. DSE is Negative

1. The kidney/pancreas transplant mid-level will present the information at the patient’s selection conference.

Approved by: Renal Transplant Leadership Group  
  
  
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