

ACC POLICY STATEMENT

Recommended Criteria for Expert Witnesses**Board of Governors' Ad Hoc Task Force to Develop Recommendations for Malpractice Reform****TASK FORCE MEMBERS**WOLF F. C. DUVERNOY, MD, FACC, *Chair*JOHN S. SCHROEDER, MD, FACC, *Immediate Past Chair*

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Recommended Criteria for Expert Witnesses

1. The Cardiology Expert Witness must have a current, valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine.
2. For testimony in the field of cardiovascular medicine, the expert witness should be board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine or the American Board of Osteopathic Internal Medicine in the specialty of cardiovascular disease or equivalency in pediatric cardiology or cardiovascular surgery. The cardiology expert should be actively and primarily engaged in the practice of the specialty under consideration.
3. The expert must be knowledgeable, familiar with and qualified in the specific area in which he or she is testifying and with commonly accepted clinical practice standards as they relate to the case and locale.
4. Compensation for cardiology expert testimony should be reasonable and commensurate with the time and effort expended. It is unethical for an expert witness to accept compensation that is contingent on the outcome of litigation.
5. The expert witness should be willing to submit transcripts of prior and current depositions and courtroom testimony for peer review.
6. Expert witness testimony should be fair, thorough and objective. It should not exclude any relevant information that has a bearing on the case.

This statement was approved by the Board of Trustees of the American College of Cardiology on October 15, 1995.

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