


Name of Policy: <u>Timeliness of Critical Findings Reporting</u> Policy Number: 3364-135-029 Department: Radiology Approving Officer: Chief Operating Officer - UTMC Responsible Agent: Chairman & Professor, Radiology Scope: Radiology	 Effective Date: 4/1/2023 Initial Effective Date: 11/1/1992
<input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy	

(A) Policy Statement

Radiology will report any unanticipated positive findings to the patient’s appropriate licensed caregiver within one hour of completion.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To ensure all unanticipated findings from diagnostic imaging studies, having clinical relevance to the patient’s immediate treatment, are communicated directly to the primary caregiver.

(C) Procedure

When an emergent (life threatening) radiological finding is identified, the following procedure will be followed:

- a. The radiologist or radiology resident will call the patient's requesting physician *or licensed health care provider* immediately.
- b. If the requesting provider cannot be located by the radiologist, the radiologist will then call the patient's attending physician to notify him of the critical test result. If the patient’s attending cannot be located, the radiologist will contact the attending in charge of that service to notify him of the critical test result.
- c. The radiologist will request a “read back” of the complete test results by the person receiving the report.
- d. Once the report is given to the appropriate clinician, the radiologist will dictate this in the report.

Critical results are, but not limited to:

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| Intracerebral Hemorrhage | Intra-Abdominal Hemorrhage | Retroperitoneal Hemorrhage |
| Intrathoracic Hemorrhage | Cerebral Herniation | New Pneumothorax |
| Aortic Dissection | Leaking AAA | Pulmonary Embolism |
| Bowel Perforation | Ectopic Pregnancy | Spinal Cord Compression |
| Testicular Torsion | Ovarian Torsion | |

Approved by: <u>/s/</u> _____ <u>04/04/2023</u> Haitham Elsamaloty, MD Chairman & Professor, Radiology Date <u>/s/</u> _____ <u>04/11/2023</u> Christine Stesney-Ridenour, FACHE Chief Operating Officer- UTMC Date <i>Review/Revision Completed By:</i> Haitham Elsamaloty, MD	Review/Revision Date: 5/29/2008 7/28/2008 10/28/2008 5/1/2011 8/22/2011 4/16/2014 4/30/2017 4/1/2020 4/1/2023 Next Review Date: 4/1/2026
Policies Superseded by This Policy: C-019	