(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 or radiology resident, the radiologist or the radiologist resident 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 or radiology resident will contact the attending in charge of that service to notify him of the critical test result.

c. The radiologist or the radiologist resident 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:

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

Approved by:

Haitham Elsamaloty, MD
Interim Chairman & Professor, Radiology

Daniel Barbee, RN, BSN, MBA
Chief Executive Officer - UTMC

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