Name of Policy: Timeliness of Life Threatening Findings Reporting
Policy Number: 3364-135-137
Department: Radiology
Approving Officer: Chief Operating Officer
Responsible Agent: Director, Radiology
Scope: Radiology

Effective Date: 04/01/2016
Initial Effective Date: 9/12/2014

(A) Policy Statement

All Radiology residents must contact the attending radiologist to review results of positive findings of "extreme critical test results", prior to communicating results to the patient's appropriate licensed caregiver. Critical and unanticipated positive findings must be reported within sixty minutes of test completion.

(B) Purpose of Policy

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

(C) Procedure

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

   a. The Radiology resident will contact the attending radiologist to review the images and confirm the results.
   b. The Radiology resident will contact the patient's requesting physician/licensed care provider immediately.
   c. The Radiology resident will document his/her findings in PACS, as well as the physician notified and the attending radiologist he/she consulted with.

2. The following is a list of procedures that may be deemed an "extreme critical test result":

   1) Spinal Cord Compression
   2) Aortic Tear
   3) Cerebral Herniation
   4) Aortic Dissection

Approved by:
Haitham Elsamaloty, MD
Interim Chairman & Professor, Radiology

Chief Operating Officer

Review/Revision Date: 04/01/2016
Next Review Date: 04/01/2019