


Name of Policy: Timeliness of Life Threatening Findings Reporting Policy Number: 3364-135-137 Approving Officer: Assistant Professor & Deputy Clinical Service Chief, Director Radiology Responsible Agent: Assistant Professor & Deputy Clinical Service Chief Scope: University of Toledo Medical Center Radiology		 Effective date: 04/10/2025 Original effective date: 09/12/2014	
Key words: Life Threatening, Findings, Reporting, Radiologist, Review			
<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

All Radiology residents must contact the attending radiologist to review results of positive findings of "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, images available for interpretation.

(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) Scope

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

