



Tennessee Interventional and Imaging Associates

Index Title: TIIA Critical Results
Originating Department: Administration

Policy statement: To ensure critical test results are relayed to clinicians in a timely manner with proper documentation.

Scope: Radiologist and Radiology Personnel

Definitions:

Critical test results – any values/interpretations for which reporting delays can result in serious adverse outcomes for patients.

Proper Documentation - The radiology report must contain the name of the communicator, date and time of communication, and name of the recipient.

Care Team Member – a healthcare professional immediately responsible for the care of the patient, including requesting physician, covering physician, attending physician, physician assistant, paramedic, nurse or nurse practitioner.

CRITICAL RESULT / INTERPRETATIONS (“Red”)

Those values/interpretations that indicate the patient is in **imminent danger of death, significant morbidity, or serious adverse consequences** unless treatment is initiated immediately. These values/interpretations require immediate, interruptive notification of the responsible (ordering or covering) physician or care team member who can initiate the appropriate clinical action for the patient. Results should be communicated by the radiologist within 60 minutes, with proper documentation.

Examples of Critical “Red” values may include:

Tension pneumothorax
Leaking/ruptured aorta
Acute cervical spine fracture
Acute intracranial hemorrhage
Unexplained pneumoperitoneum
Ruptured ectopic pregnancy

Torsion (ovarian or testicular)
Ischemic bowel
Pulmonary embolism
Acute appendicitis
Malpositioned feeding tube in airway
Pneumopericardium

URGENT, UNEXPECTED FINDING ("Orange")

Those test values/interpretations that indicate significant, unexpected abnormalities that warrant rapid, but not immediate, attention by the responsible clinician. These values do not represent a clinical emergency and do not warrant a stat page to the physician. However, these values require prompt clinical attention with notification to a care team member to avoid serious adverse outcomes for the patient. Results should be communicated within the shift, or 6-8 hours, with proper documentation.

Radiology Critical Results

For exams on the Carestream system the radiologist will send the exam to transcription to be communicated and documented. The exam will then be sent to the radiologist to be signed. For exams on the FINAO system the Radiologist will flag the exam in Intelerad and the technologist will be expected to communicate the results with a care team member and document who they spoke with in the Intelerad critical results section

Examples of clinical situations that may be included in Critical Orange:

Unsuspected malignancy or infectious disease process

Unsuspected disease that has a progressive nature (inflammatory condition)

NON-URGENT, UNEXPECTED FINDING ("Yellow") and Yellow Nodule

Those test values/interpretations that indicate a significant abnormality that may threaten life or, cause significant morbidity, complications, or serious adverse consequences unless diagnosis and treatment is initiated in a timely and reliable manner. There is no immediate threat to life. These test values/interpretations are targeted at diseases that merit timely detection and evaluation and for which a corrective action can be taken. Results should be communicated to a member of the patient's care team within 10 days, with proper documentation.

The Radiologist will flag the exam in Intelerad and the technologist will be expected to communicate the results with a care team member and document who they spoke with in Intelerad Critical Results section

Example: Unexpected nodule or solid renal mass.

Example of the Intelerad critical results section In Note history put who you spoke to and when

The screenshot shows the Intelerad critical results section for a patient with a "pulm nodule and spine lesion". The interface includes the following elements:

- Instruction:** No instruction
- For radiologist:** Calvert, Justin Tel.
- Task done by:** Payne, Kela (kpayne) Sep 11, 2017 19:21
- Ref. Physician:** ALBRIGHT, TRAVIS P
- Site:** MUR
- Organization:** MUR
- Callback number:** 8288357510
- Primary telephone:**
- Communicated:** (deselect the checkbox to allow the form to be edited)
- Communicated To:** ALBRIGHT, TRAVIS P
- Note history:**
 - 1. Sep 11, 2017 19:21 Radiology report given to ER physician. 9/11/17
- Save** button