

XXXXXX Nuclear Laboratory

Critical Results Policy

Purpose:

To provide a protocol for notification of critical patient test results in a timely fashion to the referring physician.

Definitions of Test Results

Normal: A test result that is within the normal variation and does not require follow-up or notification

Non-critical: A test result that is beyond the normal variation and that:

- Is not what is expected due to the patient's current medical state;
- May be associated with significant potential increase in morbidity and/or mortality in the foreseeable future;
- May require follow-up to ensure stability, resolution or further evaluation; and/or
- May change the medical management of that patient

Critical: A test result that is beyond the normal variation with a high probability of a significant increase in morbidity and/or mortality in the near future.

Policy:

- Normal/Non-critical results shall be dictated, transcribed and faxed within 24-48 business hours. The final copy of the report shall be mailed. Upon request by referring physician, results may be given verbally by Elvis over the phone.
- Critical results:
 - The interpreting physician will contact the referring physician immediately to convey the results. If the referring physician is unavailable, results may be given to the physician on call.
 - A report will be immediately dictated, transcribed and faxed to the referring physician with telephone verification that the report was received.
 - The name of the physician contacted, the person receiving the fax, the date and the time shall be documented in the patient chart.

Written: _____	Date: _____
Revised: _____	Date: _____
Reviewed: _____	Date: _____
_____	Date: _____