

**Memorial Health Care System**

Chattanooga, Tennessee

**POLICY**

Title:

**Critical Results**

Policy Number:

RAD-POL-0202

Page 2

Testing Area	Anatomical Area	Red Category Conditions Complete Alert within 1 hour*	Orange Category Conditions Complete Alert within 8 hours*	Yellow Category Conditions Complete Alert within 3 days*
Imaging	CNS	Cerebral Hemorrhage/hematoma Brain Tumor (mass effect) Acute Stroke Depressed Skull Fracture Cervical Spine Fracture Spinal cord compression (acute/severe)		
	Neck	Epiglottitis Carotid Artery dissection Critical Carotid stenosis 80-99%		
	Breast			Biopsy recommendation on mammogram
	Chest	Tension pneumothorax Aortic dissection Pulmonary embolism Ruptured aneurysm or impending rupture Mediastinal emphysema Solid organ laceration Pericardial hemorrhage (tamponade)	Severe infection/Abscess	
	Abdomen	Free air in abdomen (if no recent surg) Ischemic bowel Appendicitis Portal venous air Volvulus Traumatic visceral injury Retroperitoneal hemorrhage Bowel obstruction/stenosis/perforation Emphysematous cholecystitis Solid organ laceration		
	Uro-genital	Ectopic pregnancy Placental abruption Placental Previa near term Testicular or ovarian torsion Fetal demise Amniotic fluid <5cm		
	Vascular	DVT or vascular occlusion		
	Bone	Spinal or sternal fracture (acute, associated with soft tissue		New finding suggestive of new

Memorial Health Care System

Chattanooga, Tennessee

POLICY

Title:

**Critical Results**

Policy Number:

RAD-POL-0202

Page 3

		swelling)		fracture (other than those described in Red Category)
	General	Significant line or tube misplacement (e.g. feeding tube in airway)		New finding highly suggestive of malignancy (e.g. new nodule on CXR, diffuse lymphadenopathy on abd. CT)

**\* Post procedure completion.**

Radiologists only need to treat these conditions as "critical" if:

- 1) There is a high degree of certainty that the patient has one of these conditions, and
- 2) There is a reasonable chance that the ordering provider was not aware of the condition when the test was ordered.
- 3) Yellow category can be followed as noted.

Revised: Tommy Kimbrough

Reference: TX.1.3

Date First Effective: 04/2008

Distribution: Imaging Services

Disk location: Imaging Services