

UC San Diego Health

Policy Name:	Attending Radiologist Preliminary Interpretation and Reporting of STAT and Urgent Tests
Policy Number:	UCSDHP 575.1
Authoring Department:	Radiology
Last Revised Date:	May 24, 2022

APPLICABILITY:

This policy is an institutional policy applicable to all parts of UC San Diego Health Sciences, which reports to the Vice-Chancellor of Health Sciences.

UC San Diego Health Sciences includes UC San Diego School of Medicine, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Public Health, and UC San Diego Health.

UC San Diego Health clinical locations include (but are not limited to): UC San Diego Health - Hillcrest, Jacobs Medical Center, Moores Cancer Center, Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, Koman Outpatient Pavilion, and other health system outpatient clinic locations.

Departmental policies and procedures are unit-specific within a single department, unit, or service area.

The scope of this policy applies to any team member participating in clinical activities at UC San Diego Health Sciences.

PURPOSE:

This Policy provides guidelines delineating which urgent radiology studies will be read by an Attending Radiologist in addition to the on-call resident. These studies will have preliminary reports or “wet readings” which include the Attending’s interpretation of the study, on an expedited basis, twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week.

POLICY:

Consistent with UC San Diego Health’s mission as a teaching hospital, and in the interest of patient safety, Attending Radiologists will view and interpret certain Designated Radiology Studies in tandem with the on-call resident. The Attending Radiologists’ preliminary interpretation of Designated Radiology Studies will be promptly communicated to a member of the treatment team caring for the patient at that time which may include resident physicians, fellows, attending physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants.

PROCEDURE:

- I. **Responsibilities of the Attending Radiologist:**
 - A. Interpret the Designated Radiology Study on an expedited basis.
 - B. Confirm the interpretation with the on-call radiology resident.

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- C. Instruct the radiology resident to communicate critical results to the member of the treatment team caring for the patient at that time or enter the pertinent results in the report if the findings are not critical.
- D. Instruct the on-call resident to document the preliminary report, date, time, and physician contacted in the report.
- E. If the final dictated report differs from the preliminary report in any respect that is significant to the patient's clinical management or outcome, this must be promptly communicated to the ordering physician or patient's primary attending physician consistent with the policy on the communication of critical test results and documented in the report.

II. **Responsibilities of Department of Radiology:**

- A. The Department of Radiology will regularly conduct rigorous quality control monitoring of discrepancies between radiology preliminary interpretation of designated images and the final image interpretation.

DEFINITIONS:

I. Attending Radiologist:

- A. Includes only board certified and board eligible radiologists, licensed in the state of California who:

- 1. Hold either full time or part time faculty appointments at UC San Diego Health (UC San Diego Health); or
- 2. Are currently enrolled in a fellowship program at UC San Diego Health and who have been approved by the Chair of the Department of Radiology to function as an Attending Radiologist under this policy; or
- 3. Are under contract with the UC San Diego Health to provide after-hours interpretation of diagnostic images, according to the same standard of care required of all UC San Diego Health Attending Radiologists.

- II. Designated Radiology Studies: The following diagnostic radiology images, when ordered on a STAT or emergent basis, will be seen by an Attending Radiologist in addition to the on-call resident. This policy applies twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week, at all sites.

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- A. All STAT abdominal/pelvic CTs ordered by the ED.
- B. All head CTs are ordered for clearance prior to anticoagulation.
- C. All STAT requests for any diagnostic image, where the ordering attending physician's order and requisition requests an immediate Attending Radiologist interpretation.

FORMS:

None.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS:

The Joint Commission ([TJC](#))

UC San Diego Health Department of Radiology Policy & Procedure: "Wet Reading" documentation by radiologists on PACS (24/7)

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

RELATED POLICIES:

UCSDHP [574.1](#), "Critical Results"

CONTACT(S):

Radiology

APPROVALS:

Radiology Quality Council (RQC)

Nursing Policy & Procedure Committee (NPP)

Nurse Executive Council (NEC)

Medical Staff Executive Committee (MSEC)

UC San Diego Health Executive Governing Body (EGB)

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REVISION HISTORY:

ORIGINAL: 10/19/2004