

**Massachusetts General Hospital
Pathology Critical Test Policy**

Definition:

Critical tests are defined as tests or procedures that must be conducted and reported quickly to determine the course of care. Critical tests require rapid processing, performance and communication of results even if the results are within normal limits. This differs from critical values which are abnormal values that indicate a possible life threatening situation and require communication according to the hospital policy. (See Clinical Policy and Procedure Manual: Results Retrieval) Results from critical tests are communicated according to individual laboratory procedures.

Policy:

The table defines critical tests and results reporting criteria.

Test	Performing Lab	Expectations Receive to Result Time
Acute Care Lab - D-Dimer Test	Core - Hematology	90% in 65 mins
Acute Care Lab - Blood Gas Potassium	Core - Chemistry	90% in 10 mins
Acute Care Lab - Complete Blood Count (CBC)	Core - Hematology	90% in 25 mins
Acute Care Lab - Troponin	Core - Chemistry	85% in 45 mins
Acute Care Lab - Potassium	Core - Chemistry	90% in 30 mins
Acute Care Lab - PTT	Core - Hematology	85% in 25 mins
Pediatric CBC and Diff Counts	Core - Hematology	90% in 60 mins
Transfusion Reaction Work Up	Blood Transfusion Services	75% in 90 mins
Stat Gram Stain	Microbiology	>=90% in 60 mins
Frozen Section	Surgical Path	80% in 20 mins
Pre-transplant deceased donor crossmatch	HLA	90% in 5 hours

Monitoring

Turnaround times for Pathology critical tests will be monitored by individual laboratory leadership on an ongoing basis. Performance reports from each lab will be reviewed by the Pathology Clinical Oversight Committee on an annual basis unless otherwise required. Overall performance will be reported to hospital leadership as requested.

Approved: Pathology Clinical Oversight

February 23, 2009

Hospital Lab Advisory Committee

March 11, 2009