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Emergency Medicine (EM) and Radiology Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the interpretation turnaround time (TAT).

Admin Approval: 6/1/2020

Next Review: 6/2022

Division/Champion: General/Thoburn

Subject: ER imaging report turn around time expectations and escalation pathway

Purpose: EM and radiology are valued partners with multiple interdisciplinary agreements and clinical pathways. This MOU is to define clear expectations of the department of radiology's reporting services for patient care in all UF Health affiliated Emergency Departments (ED). We will review this on a quarterly basis for any changes necessary.

Policy:

ED Imaging Orders and interpretation of study time expectations:

- The ED is responsible for the overall care of the patient and appropriate choice of imaging based on pretest probability derived from a history and physical examination of the patient.
- The ED will place appropriate information in the orders to assist with the clinical question being asked of the radiologist.
- The ED will use clinical decision rules and best evidence for the utilization of advanced imaging being mindful of resource utilization and what is considered an "emergent study"
- Radiology has committed to the following expectations for the TAT of a preliminary or final read of an imaging study with the following:
 - A study must be completed by radiology and the patient returned to their care space for the "clock to start" on TAT
 - An actionable report will be available within 30 minutes of completion of a study
 - If there is no actionable report within 60 minutes of completion of the study, the ED will call the respective reading room and request a verbal actionable read of the study to guide care.
 - If no actionable report is present within 120 minutes, the ED attending will call the reading room and ask to speak with the radiology attending present or on-call to have the study read with an actionable report to follow.
 - This escalation strategy will be followed 24/7 with no exceptions to time of day or day of the week.
 - Any extenuating circumstances that may lead to these time goals not being met will be immediately communicated back to the ED providers initiating the consultation.
- An actionable report that requires an addendum will result in a phone call to the ordering physician or ED attending with specific imaging recommendations to be given by the radiologist in regards to follow-up timing and/or further advanced imaging. If any addendum is agreed upon as "emergent" and the patient has been discharged, they will be called and located to return to the ED.