Critical Results
Teaching Points for Inpatient/Ambulatory/Clinic RN

Reporting critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures must be done on a timely basis (2017 National Patient Safety Goal 02.03.01).

Critical results must be reported to a responsible licensed caregiver (e.g. provider) within 60 minutes from the time they are available in the reporting department. The reporter will verify that the result was read back and will record the name and title of the recipient and the date and time the result was received (MCP 574.1, Critical Results).

Educational Points
- An RN who cannot act independently on the result will contact the appropriate provider and document the name of the provider receiving the result, verification of read back, and the date and time of the notification in the electronic health record (EHR) using the Provider Notification tab within the Flowsheet activity.
- If the RN is authorized to act on the result under a standing order or protocol, the provider need not be notified.

Source: Ellen Nyheim, Hospital NPSG 02.03.01 (2017), MCP 574.1