

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIO PULMONARY POLICY MANUAL  
REPORTING CRITICAL VALUES**

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**Cross Referenced:**  
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**Policy No: 5.012**  
**Origin: Cardio Pulmonary**  
**Authority: Cardio/Pulmonary Manager**  
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**Purpose:** To define the guidelines for the reporting of abnormal critical values of pacemaker patients.

**Procedure:**

1. Critical abnormal findings resulting from pacemaker testing, based on the criteria listed, but not limited to, will be reported. The finding will be reported to the ordering physician, the patients Cardiologist and/or the Cardiologist on panel for the current month. Such findings will be reported within 20 minutes of starting the testing.
2. The communication will be recorded in the Critical Values Log located in the Pacemaker Clinic.
3. The following will be recorded:
  - Date/Time
  - Patient Name
  - Medical Record Number
  - Value Reported
  - Value Read Back
  - Physician/RN Name

**Critical Values:**

- Change in Impedances
- Pacemaker Battery End of Life
- New onset Atrial Fibrillation
- New onset Arrhythmia
- Loss of capture/pacing malfunction (possible Fx of lead)
- Resting heart rate over 120 bpm
- Symptoms of CHF
- Sensing Malfunction
- Threshold abnormalities or change