

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

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Purpose: To define the guidelines for reporting the abnormal critical values of echocardiogram diagnostic procedures.

Procedure:

1. Critical abnormal findings resulting from an echocardiogram diagnostic procedure, based on the technician performing the test and the criteria listed, but not limited to, will be reported. The findings 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 completing the procedure.
2. The communication will be recorded in the Echo Critical Values Log located in each sub-department of Cardiology.
3. The following will be recorded:
 - Date / Time
 - Patient Name
 - Medical Record Number
 - Value Reported
 - Physician Notified
 - Reporting Tech
 - Value Confirmed

Critical Values:

Echocardiography

- Large Pericardial Effusion associated with Tamponade.
- Ventricular Aneurysm Associated with Myocardial Infarction.
- Left Ventricular Pseudo aneurysm.
- Septal Rupture associated with Myocardial Infarction.
- Severe Aortic Stenosis.
- Severe Mitral Stenosis.
- Cardiomyopathy with Ejection Fraction < 30%.
 - Newborn with a critical value is reported to the Pediatric Cardiologist
 - Moderate to Severe VSD / ASD
 - Moderate to Severe Patent Ductus Arteriosus
 - Genetic Defects (i.e. Tetralogy of Fallot)
- Mural Clot.

A Cardiologist directly supervises the following procedures. Abnormal and critical findings do not require reporting by the Cardiology Department staff members. The Cardiologist reports abnormal findings and takes appropriate intervention when critical values are identified.

- Transesophageal Echocardiography
- Stress Test Echocardiography
- Bubble Echocardiography