

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
NURSING POLICIES
COMMUNICATING LAB RESULTS TO DISCHARGED PATIENTS FROM THE
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

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SCOPE- HRMC Emergency Department

PURPOSE-

To outline the Hackettstown Regional Medical Center's policy for managing patients initially seen in the emergency department in which lab tests have been obtained and results are outstanding and to ensure a standard of care for appropriate treatment and follow up care.

POLICY

All patients discharged from the Hackettstown Medical Center Emergency Department with pertinent outstanding laboratory results will have the results communicated to them and/or their primary care physician after discharge.

PROCEDURE

- I. The outside facility notifies the HRMC laboratory with the patients results.
- II. The HRMC laboratory notifies the ED charge nurse with:
 - a. Patient name
 - b. Fin number
 - c. MR number
 - d. Patient DOB
 - e. Result
- III. The Charge Nurse in the ED verifies that the patient was/is admitted. If so the appropriate floor is called with the result. The ED charge Nurse opens the Electronic Medical Record and verifies the results.
- IV. The ED charge Nurse checks the MD note and discharge instructions for prescribed antibiotics as well as the PMD name.
- V. The ED Charge Nurse consults with ED physician that prescribed medications were appropriate for care with the result obtained.
- VI. The ED Charge nurse documents in EMR result, medication prescribed and sensitivity.
- VII. If antibiotics were not prescribed, the ED Physician will prescribe. The ED Charge nurse will call the patient and obtain the preferred pharmacy and call in prescription and/or contact patient's PMD with result depending on ED physician's recommendation.
- VIII. The ED Charge Nurse and Physician will document in EMR actions taken.
- IX. If unable to contact the patient by telephone a certified letter will be sent to the patient's home address.