

Communicating

Urgent Significant and Unexpected Findings.

1. Purpose

- The purpose of this document is to establish good communication of significant pathology to the referrer.
- Following the publication of RCR Standard for the communication of critical /urgent and 'unexpected and significant findings' in 2008, guides were required to ensure safe and robust systems are in place.
- Korus Health have implemented the following guide for sonographers

2. Key messages

- Significant and unexpected findings

3. Relevant Policies and Guidance:

- Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) Standards for the communication of radiology reports and fail - safe notification, 2016.
- The Royal College of Radiologists (2016) Standards and Recommendations for the Reporting and Interpretation of Imaging Investigations by Non-Radiologist Medically Qualified Practitioners and Teleradiologists.
- SCoR/BMUS Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice. December 2016
- Royal College of Radiologists and Society and College of Radiographers Standards for the provision of an ultrasound service (2014)
- RCR A practical guide to implementing Order comms and electronic remote requesting in radiology, 2014.
- National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) Safer Practice Notice 16, 2007.

4. Taking appropriate action

- The sonographer has a duty of care to the patient, to ensure that when immediate or urgent action is required, this information is delivered to the referring GP/clinician promptly.
- Appropriate alert mechanisms, are recommended and in place, so urgent communication is recorded in the reports and acted upon.

5. Sonographer Actions:

5.1 For Urgent Findings

- Where other medical evaluation is required within 24 hours. For e.g. >10cm AAA, ectopic pregnancy
- The patient's referring GP or hospital clinician should be contacted by telephone. Details of this conversation should be noted in the formal report, including the name of the clinician/ person spoken too. If not able to speak to the referrer, please note in report. Please use the Edit box at bottom of the report and select "DAY ONE PHONE CALL" for the admin team to address as soon as possible.

5.2 For Significant Unexpected Findings:

- Cases where the sonographer, has concerns, that the ultrasound findings are significant for the patient and are unexpected (RCR 2016). e.g. query cancer, ascites, gross hydronephrosis etc.
- Please select the phrase ' significant and unexpected finding ' from the report icon and insert at beginning of report.
- Please use Edit box at bottom of the report and select "significant and unexpected finding". The admin team will ensure it is sent by email as urgent.

6. Consultant Review:

- Please authorise the report with phrase in the Comment/Summary 'For consultant review'. If significant and unexpected finding, please send as above and send in Message to the office staff. In Edit box, select "For Consultant review".

- The Radiologist will add an addendum at a later stage, but the report will be already be received by the GP and flagged as urgent if required.

7. Further Investigations:

- For eg Abdominal X ray for lost IUCD, not seen on scan. Send as 'significant and unexpected finding', and select in Edit box.
- Admin will email or phone the GP referrer.

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