Division of Nuclear Medicine Procedure / Protocol
University Hospital & The American Center
AFCH PET

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ORDER PRIORITY AND RESPONSE TIME   FORMER QA POLICY
UPDATED: MARCH 2017
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ORDER PRIORITY IN HEALTHLINK:

Inpatient: Referring service requests the procedure by entering a request into Health Link and then contacting NM to schedule the patient. The procedures are then scheduled by order priority.

ORDER PRIORITY (as selected in Health Link)
- STAT: Scan must be performed as soon as possible; another patient may be delayed.
- ASAP: Scan will be performed as soon as there is an opening on the same day as requested or maybe tomorrow.
- Routine: Scan will be performed at first available opening the next business day.

Outpatient: Referring service requests the procedure by entering a request into Health Link and then contacting the Radiology Call Center to schedule at 263-XRAY (9729). The procedures are then scheduled by order priority.

Most requests are scheduled at the time the Radiology Call Center is called. However, some exams require the exam to be protocoled before scheduled. The Radiology Call Center knows these exams per their scheduling guidelines.

ORDER PRIORITY (as selected in Health Link)
- Routine: Scan will be performed at first available opening. The schedule search will begin from the next business day. (most common request and may mean Monday, if ordered on Friday)
- STAT: Scan must be performed as soon as possible; another patient may be delayed.
- ASAP: Scan will be performed as soon as there is an opening on the same day as requested or the next business day.

ORDER PRIORITY NOT IN HEALTHLINK:

These priorities do not exist in Health Link but do require special attention:
- Pre-Op: The scan is a pre-operative procedure and is requested for a specific date and time. Currently this includes lymphoscintigraphy and diagnostic Injections. Staff schedule adjustments may be made to accommodate these requests.
- Post-Op: The scan is a post-operative procedure and is requested for a specific date post op.
- Pre-Discharge: Should be treated similar to ASAP.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE ON-CALL PROCEDURE:

- Emergency studies need to be pre-approved by Radiology or NM residents prior to scheduling.
- Through the page operator, the appropriate resident will be notified to call the referring physician or the operator will put the referring physician through to the resident.
- The Radiology or NM resident will contact the nuclear medicine technologist, set up the study and provide an interim report.
- NM faculty are on-call at all times; the paging operator has the schedule.

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TECHNOLOGIST ON-CALL RESPONSE TIME:

The response time for nuclear medicine technologist is to be present in the hospital within one hour of being called. The on-call technologist may have to elute the generator and/or prepare radiopharmaceuticals appropriate for the requested procedure. In the worst-case scenario, this can take about 75 minutes to perform the Nuclear Pharmacy tasks before the scan can be performed.

Tech Response Time: 60 minutes
Radiopharmaceutical Prep Time: 30-75 minutes
Scan Time: 60-90 minutes
Total Time from Calling Technologist to Completing Procedure: 150-225 minutes

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Reviewed By:

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