

ASNC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Timeliness of reporting results of nuclear cardiology procedures

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Although guidelines exist for the performance and interpretation of nuclear cardiology procedures,¹ as well as for clinically relevant reporting,² no standard has yet been proposed regarding how rapidly reports should be available for good clinical practice. In the spirit of quality and optimal test and report performance, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology recommends the following timelines for reporting the results of nuclear cardiology procedures, as shown in Table 1. The following recommendations are for both inpatient and outpatient examinations.

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Table 1. Timelines for reporting results of nuclear cardiology procedures

Patient study	Report dissemination
Completed interpretation	within 1 business day
Final report transmittal	within 2 business days

These guidelines for the timeliness of reporting do not apply when high-risk findings are present, as more prompt communication with ordering physicians is advised. Completed interpretation implies that the results are available for clinical use, although the final signed document may not have been released; verbal review or preliminary written reports may be used in this context. Final report transmission refers to when the final written/electronic version is released and available for review. The times for report dissemination are consistent with those in the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories standards for nuclear cardiology.³

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