

Australasian College  
for Emergency Medicine

# Follow-up of results of investigations ordered from emergency departments

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Policy P54

## Document Review

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Timeframe for review: Every three years, or earlier if required.  
Document authorisation: Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships  
Document implementation: Standards and Endorsement Committee  
Document maintenance: Policy Officer

## Revision History

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Version	Date	Pages revised / Brief explanation of revision
1	Nov 2008	Approved by Council
2	Jul 2014	Content revised
3	Sept 2019	New template adopted

## 1. Purpose and scope

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This document relates to follow up of results of investigations ordered from emergency departments. ACEM recognises that investigation ordering is an integral part of emergency medicine.

The policy is applicable to emergency departments in Australia and New Zealand.

## 2. Policy

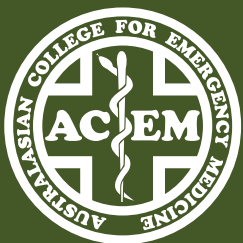
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Clinicians in emergency departments must ensure that the results of investigations ordered from that department are followed up within a clinically appropriate time frame.

## 3. Procedures and actions

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- Systems need to be in place to ensure that the results of investigations ordered from an emergency department are reported to the responsible clinician, documented by them and followed up within a clinically appropriate time frame.
- The results of all investigations from the emergency department should be reviewed by the ordering clinician, unless the responsibility for care of that patient has been handed over to another clinician (refer to [S18 ACEM Statement on Responsibility for Care in Emergency Departments](#)).
- A system must be in place for review of results that return after a patient has been discharged from the emergency department.
- When outpatient investigations are ordered from the emergency department, clear follow up arrangements for review of results must be in place.
- Investigation results review processes should be periodically reviewed to ensure that they are functioning effectively.
- Patients should be informed of investigations performed in the ED, and the follow-up arrangements required for the results.



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