

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

SUSPICIOUS LABORATORY RESULTS

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PURPOSE: To ensure that only final and accurate test results are reported and retained in patient medical record.

POLICY: If a case arises in which the validity of a result is questionable (a nurse drawn specimen with unusual or unexpected results; a cord blood DAT with +/- results; a set of electrolytes that is inconsistent with past patient results and may have been drawn over an IV; a K⁺ that is elevated on a slightly hemolyzed specimen) or there is a delta failure, DO NOT report a verbal “temporary” report. An investigation of the discrepancies must be made – observe instrument function and QC acceptability, specimen integrity, question the phlebotomist, and repeat analysis if specimen is suitable. After the resolution of the investigation, document the result in the computer under Result Comment (use result verified template) or reject specimen (see separate procedure) and order a recollect of the specimen to verify the aberrant result