

## Description and Implementation Short PQI Project – Report Timeliness

Medical imaging has become an essential aspect of medical care for many if not most outpatient and inpatient care episodes. The radiology report is the written record of the diagnostic information contained in that examination. This information must be provided to the treating physician in a timely manner. While the definition of timely varies with the clinical setting, our goal is to have all reports available in electronic medical record format as promptly as possible.

Baseline survey:

	Report
time*	
July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005	73.60
hours	

\*Time from completion of examination to availability of final report in the electronic medical record.

Improvement plan:

The components of the process from completion of the examination by the technologist to final approval by the radiologist were flow charted. Each step in the process was analyzed to see if it added value, could be streamlined or could be omitted.

Intervention included adding reading room coordinators to get the examinations to the work stations in a timelier manner and changing the work time assignments of the radiologists to provide greater coverage of the 24 hour day.

Repeat survey:

	Report time
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006	30.02
hours	