	Department of Health Government of Nunavut		NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS		
Nunavut			Community Health Nursing		
TITLE:				SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
Follow-Up of Abnormal Diagnostic Test Results			Test Results	Diagnostics	08-006-00
EFFECTIVI	E DATE:	REVIEW	DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:
February 10, 2018		February	2021		2
APPLIES TO:					
Community Health Nurses					

## POLICY:

The nurse will promptly discuss all abnormal test results with the client and an appropriate follow up plan initiated. All communication or attempts to communicate with the client shall be documented in the client's medical record.

### **PRINCIPLES**

- > Healthy communities: people are responsible and accountable for their own well being
- Simplicity and Unity: developing programs and services which are fair, understandable and easy to access and that will encourage public participation and create accountability
- Self-reliance: residents receive every opportunity to benefit from the health services provided to Nunavummiut
- The nurse ordering any tests is responsible and accountable for reviewing and following up the lab results.

#### REFERENCES:

Government of Nunavut. Pinasuagtavut. GN: Igaluit.



## **GUIDELINES 08-006-01**

# Follow-up Abnormal Results

- 1. When diagnostic test results are ordered, the client will be advised to contact their nurse for the results of the diagnostic tests. Follow-up appointments may be arranged in advance according to the client's condition or circumstances.
- 2. In the event that a result is abnormal, the Registered Nurse shall promptly notify the client. All follow-up actions will be documented in the client record, including the details of the telephone contact with the client.
- 3. The nurse shall attempt to reach the client initially by telephone. In the event the client could not be reached after three attempts by phone, an appointment card shall be delivered to the client requesting a follow-up appointment at the health centre.
- 4. If there continues to be no response from the client, a letter will be sent to the client in English and in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun (if English is not his/her first language) indicating an abnormal test result and any follow-up actions required.
- 5. All communications or attempts to communicate with the client shall be documented in the client's medical record.

Approved by:	Effective Date:
Intret 11 FEB 2011	
Chief Nursing Officer Date	
Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Date	April 1, 2011

