

The Imaging and Response Assessment Core (IRAC) of the Siteman Cancer Center is receiving an increasing number of requests for STAT tumor measurements on CT and MRI studies (measurements required on the same day that the scan is performed or on the same day that a request is submitted), almost double the number in 2016 by comparison with 2014 and 2015. Some of these requests are even more demanding (e.g., scan scheduled at 0800 with request for measurements by 1000 or scan performed after 1600 with request for measurements by 0700 the next morning).

Although we strive to provide our measurement services in a timely manner (and have a much shorter turnaround time than most other similar services at other cancer centers), we are finding it to be difficult to meet this increasing demand for STAT services.

Accordingly, the following represents an updated policy regarding expectations for turnaround time of IRAC measurements:

#### **IRAC Turnaround Time Policy**

- ) IRAC tumor response assessments will be provided between 0800 and 1600, Monday through Friday.
- ) When no date/time for measurement is requested, our goal will be to provide the measurements within 24-48 hours after imaging and, at least, by the time requested.
- ) When STAT measurement is requested for an imaging study performed after 1600 and needed the next morning, the goal will be to provide the assessment by 1200 of that day.
- ) When a same-day STAT measurement is requested for imaging studies performed after 0700, the goal will be to provide the assessment on the same day, within 4 hours of the scan (but constrained by the 0800-1600 operating hours as noted above).
- ) We recognize that there are circumstances where faster turnaround may be required, namely, a patient traveling a long distance to Siteman Cancer Center and undergoing imaging to be followed immediately by a decision to continue or discontinue therapy on the same day. IRAC will strive to fulfill these special requests within a short time frame of 2 to 3 hrs if this justification is provided.

Planning of treatment for a forthcoming appointment is not a justification for STAT measurements. Additionally, a formal IRAC report is rarely necessary to document the presence of measurable disease in order to determine eligibility before registering a

patient to a new trial; this information is usually readily ascertainable from clinical reports.

Please contact us if you have questions regarding this updated policy.

Barry A. Siegel, MD  
[siegelb@wustl.edu](mailto:siegelb@wustl.edu)

Marilyn J. Siegel, MD  
[siegelm@wustl.edu](mailto:siegelm@wustl.edu)

Co-leaders, Imaging and Response Assessment Core