



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
508 Fulton Street
Durham NC 27705**

In Reply Refer To: 558/113

March 7, 2006

To: Electron Microscopy Program Directors

The most recent annual Electron Microscopy Review committee meeting was held in Atlanta on February 10th, 2006. The committee members again noted a general problem of report turn around times being too long in a number of Programs. Some members indicated that although calling a clinician with an important result is good medical practice, the phone report date/time should not be used to determine the final TAT. A motion was made to obtain additional TAT data from the EM Programs on ALL their diagnostic EM cases for some period of time, a year if possible. A specific recommendation was made that the EM report turnaround time should be 5 working days or less and the definition of what is considered to be the completed date/time of the report and which specific date/time frames are used for TAT calculation needs to be re-visited.

On the next annual EM program review cycle for FY 2006 (Oct 1, 2005 - Sep. 30, 2006), the committee is asking that turn around time data for all reported clinical diagnostic EM cases be provided, in addition to the five submitted review cases. Since the FY 2006 year is at the half way mark, the committee will at the next meeting primarily look for historical data to measure improvement to the TAT averages during the second half of the year as an indication that this patient report quality improvement issue is being dealt with.

For those VA facilities, which login their EM cases into the VISTA laboratory package using the EM accession area, there is a report option that will provide that turn around time listing. The menu option is located within the main AP menu as follows:

Select AP quality assurance Option: ?

- CE QA codes entry/edit
- CN AP consultation searches and reports
- CS Cum path summaries for quality assurance
- CY % Pos, Atyp, Dysp, Neg, Susp, Unsat cytopath
- DC Delete TC and QA codes
- FS Frozen section, surgical path correlation
- MM Print path gross/micr/dx/fr.sect modifications
- MR Malignancy review
- OR QA outcome review cases
- RR 10% random case review, surg path
- SP Edit QA site parameters
- TC Tissue committee review cases
- TT Anatomic pathology turnaround time ←=====**

Select AP quality assurance Option: **Anatomic pathology turnaround time**
Select ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SECTION: **EM**

Start with Date TODAY// 093006 **(SEP 30, 2006)**
Go to Date TODAY// 100105 **(OCT 01, 2005)**
Identify cases exceeding turnaround time limit ? **NO// (NO)**
DEVICE: HOME// VISTA printer (example of report listed below)

Turnaround time for EM (EM)
From: Oct 01, 2005 To: Sep 30, 2006

Acc #	Rec'd	Entry	ID	Typist	Lab work	
					Released	Days Pathologist
157#	10/28/2005	XXXXXX,CHARLES WILLI	8686	dnh	11/04/2005	5 HOWELL
158	11/02/2005	YYYYYY,MAJOR E JR	9252	dnh	11/10/2005	6 HOWELL
159#	11/08/2005	ZZZZZZZ,JAMES ALBER	5545	dnh	11/10/2005	2 HOWELL

(at the end of the report calculations are provided classified as applicable by Total cases, Total PATIENT, Total REFERRAL PATIENT and Total RESEARCH file cases, the categories are identified according to this legend below)

If '#', '*' or '?' is after Acc # then demographic data is in file indicated:
= Referral file * = Research file ? = Other file listed below

Total cases: 40
Incomplete cases: 2
Complete cases: 38
Average turnaround time (days): X.47

Total PATIENT file cases: 8
Complete cases: 8
Average turnaround time (days): X.25

Total REFERRAL PATIENT file cases: 32
Incomplete cases: 2
Complete cases: 30
Average turnaround time (days): X.80

For those facilities, which enter the EM report as a supplementary to the regular Surgical Pathology report, the following FileMan sort/print template may be used to provide that information. (This template should be provided either to the lab applications coordinator who has access to FileMan report options or to someone in the VISTA computer section with FileMan experience)

```
SORT TEMPLATE ON FILE 63
OUTPUT FROM WHAT FILE: LAB DATA//
SORT BY: LRDFN// SURGICAL PATHOLOGY (multiple)
SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT (multiple)
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT SUB-FIELD: 'SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT DATE/TIME
START WITH SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT DATE/TIME: FIRST// 100105@0001 (OCT 01, 2005@00:01)
GO TO SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT DATE/TIME: LAST// 093006@2359 (SEP 30, 2006@23:59)
WITHIN SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT DATE/TIME, SORT BY: SURGICAL PATHOLOGY
SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD: SURGICAL PATH ACC #
START WITH SURGICAL PATH ACC #: FIRST//
WITHIN SURGICAL PATH ACC #, SORT BY:
```

```
PRINT TEMPLATE ON FILE 63
FIRST PRINT FIELD: SURGICAL PATHOLOGY (multiple)
FIRST PRINT SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD: SURGICAL PATH ACC #;L10;"ACC #"
THEN PRINT SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD: DATE/TIME SPECIMEN RECEIVED
THEN PRINT SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD: DATE REPORT COMPLETED
THEN PRINT SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
THEN PRINT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT SUB-FIELD: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT DATE/TIME
THEN PRINT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT SUB-FIELD: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT MODIFIED
THEN PRINT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT MODIFIED SUB-FIELD: SUPP REPORT RELEASE DATE/TIME
THEN PRINT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT MODIFIED SUB-FIELD:
THEN PRINT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT SUB-FIELD:
THEN PRINT SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SUB-FIELD:
THEN PRINT FIELD:
Heading (S/C): SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT DATA//
```

Example of typical report output is below. The SP accessions which have EM supplementary data should be marked or indicated on the printout that is provided.

```
LAB DATA LIST MAR 7,2006 14:08 PAGE 1
DATE/TIME SPECIMEN DATE REPORT SUPPLEMENTARY
ACC # RECEIVED COMPLETED REPORT DATE/TIME
SUPP REPORT
RELEASE DATE/TIME

SP 04 3241 JUL 2,2004 12:59 JUL 7,2004 OCT 28,2005 07:59
OCT 28,2005 08:00
SP 04 4453 SEP 9,2004 10:13 SEP 10,2004 OCT 27,2005 08:04
OCT 27,2005 08:13
SP 04 5541 NOV 8,2004 09:04 NOV 9,2004 OCT 20,2005 08:34
OCT 20,2005 08:37
SP 05 4167 AUG 24,2005 07:51 AUG 31,2005 OCT 27,2005 15:17
OCT 27,2005 15:22
```

In the situations where the facility reports the EM as part of their regular SP (Surgical pathology) reports, the same "Select AP quality assurance Option: **Anatomic pathology turnaround time**" report may be used for the SP accession area and the SP accession numbers with the embedded EM report should be marked or indicated on the TAT report.