**Protocol for Data Collection for Critical Test Result Measures**

Excel spreadsheets for data collection have been made available on the Coalition's WEB site (www.macoalition.org/initiatives/CCTR/Toolkit.shtml):

- Data Collection Tool
- Graphing Spreadsheet

Recommended Strategy:

1. Identify a sample of 20-30 tests within the defined category
    a. Test type: laboratory, radiology, cardiology, other
    b. Level of criticality: red, orange, yellow

        Or even more finely defined as a narrow, specific set of test results and values for focused testing (e.g. only potassium levels above 7.0)

2. Complete the data collection form to track time elapsed from when the critical test result is available to receiving acknowledgement from the provider who can take action (and/or to initiation of clinical action for the patient)

3. Sum Column (J and K); find average, maximum and percent of tests that met time targets; determine the percentage of tests that met the time targets

4. Compile aggregate measures from this sample

5. Develop run charts and other data displays by continuing to review a sample of charts on a regular basis (monthly data collection recommended)

NB:
For all measures, we recommend a strategy of sampling results from a few tests for a short period of time (e.g. 1. record measure for all RED category potassium results at different times of the day, and or different days of the week; repeat test in a few weeks, or 2. next 20 critical values

These measures may be collected at various sub-levels, depending on each hospital's implementation strategy and focus.

Test type:

Laboratory (starter projects might evaluate results for a subset of highly-critical lab tests, e.g. RED zone Potassium levels above 7.0, or other sets of specific hematology and chemistry values)

Level of Criticality: *Hospitals define their own time targets, generally within this range:*

"Red" = 45 minutes -- 1 hour
"Orange" = 6 -- 8 hours
"Yellow" = 3 days