Test Results, Open Notes and the Cures Act

This handout explains why you may see important information—like test results and doctor's notes—in your MyChart account before your provider talks with you about them. It also shows you how to change this so your results appear after your provider has reviewed them. Read below to learn more about the Cures Act and how to update your MyChart settings so that test results appear after your provider has reviewed them.

The 21st Century Cures Act

The 21st Century Cures Act is a federal law passed in 2016. It says that health care providers must share test results in your online health record, like MyChart, right away. It also gives you access to "open notes." This means you can read the notes your providers write about your care in your health record.

Test results

Because of the Cures Act, most test results will show up in MyChart right away. If you'd rather your care team see them first, you can change your settings in MyChart by following the instructions on page 2.

Open notes

Providers write notes in MyChart so that everyone on your care team has the same information. This is the main way that providers communicate with each other. Because of this, the notes may include medical terms that are new to you. These websites may help you identify definitions of unfamiliar terms and abbreviations.

- Medical Dictionary – Common abbreviations: **medlineplus.gov/appendixb.html**
- Medline Plus: **medlineplus.gov/healthtopics.html**

We're here to support you

We know seeing results before talking with your care team can feel stressful. If you'd prefer to wait until your provider reviews them first, you can update your MyChart settings by following the instructions on page 2.

Our goal is to always talk to you at your next visit about any information related to your care, and especially any information that may be confusing or upsetting. If results require an urgent change in your care, we will contact you before then. If you have questions that can't wait until your next visit, please call your care team to set up a time to talk with your provider. If you need emotional support, please call Social Work at (206) 606-1076 or Spiritual Health at (206) 606-1099.

How to update your MyChart settings

You can choose for your test results to show in MyChart right away or for your health care provider to see them before you do. If you do not select an option, your account will automatically show your test results as soon as possible.

What the options mean:

Show me test results as soon as possible means you may see test results before your care team has had a chance to review them. If you don't want this, follow the instructions below.

Wait to show me test results means your care team will review your test results first and may add comments before they are released to you. The comments will either show up as a message attached to your test results or in your "Messages" inbox. If your care team has not reviewed your test results within 4 days, they will be released to you for review without their comments.

To select "Wait to show me test results:"

1. Go to the MyChart home page and click "Test Results" at the top of the page.
2. On the right side of your screen, select "Test result preferences."
3. Select "Wait to show me test results."
4. Click the circle next to the option.
5. Click "Confirm" near the bottom of the page.

Notification settings

You can also choose not to get notified every time a test result comes in. To do this:

1. Go to the MyChart home page and click "Menu" in the top left corner. A menu list will appear on the left side of your screen.
2. Scroll down to the bottom to "Account Settings."
3. Select "Communication Preferences" and adjust the notifications how you want them. Notification settings are shown with icons for email, text message, phone call, and mail. A purple icon means "send a notification." A white icon means "do not send a notification."
4. Click the drop-down menu for "Health" and adjust the notifications how you want them.
5. If you do not want to receive any notifications that your test results are available, click the icon(s) so that it turns white.
6. Save your changes.