

Accessing Lab Results

As a result of our review of laboratory practices, the following will be the only manner in which a patient may receive their lab results:

- A patient can contact their physician for testing results.
- A patient can sign and present an “Authorization for Release of Information” to the Dunn Memorial Hospital Medical Information Service and results will be printed and released to the patient, or be sent to another provider.
- The laboratory will not give verbal laboratory results directly to a patient.
- The laboratory will not fax laboratory results directly to a personal fax.

Release of Medical Information

Dunn Memorial takes great strides to provide convenience for our patients as well as protecting personal information of those we serve. With the help of Dunn Memorial Hospital’s Medical Information Services, Dunn’s laboratory recently performed a review of its practices regarding release of Medical Information to patients and patient representatives. The rules for release of laboratory test results are governed by both **HIPAA** (*Health Information Portability and Accountability Act*) and **Indiana State Law** and have criteria clearly set forth regarding authorizations for release of medical information. I.C. § 16-39-1-4 is intended to regulate how a provider can release a patient’s health information to an outside entity and release of test results must follow this law. After our review we are putting additional safeguards into place in order to satisfy the requirements of government entities. Dunn Memorial does not wish to cause any inconvenience and apologizes if this is how some may feel, however, it is our role to perform “best practices” in healthcare and protect unauthorized release of our patients’ information.

Federal law states:

- Patients 18 years of age or older or emancipated minor may have access to his/her own health care records for review or obtain photocopies upon written request and upon reasonable notice.
- A patient or his/her designee may review or receive photocopies of the patient health care records upon written request with the patient’s authorization and upon reasonable notice.
- A patient under the age of 18 requires a parent or legal guardian to access results/records.

Dunn Memorial’s Medical Information Service is located on the first floor, you may ask for assistance from any of our professionals.

Medical Information Hours:

M-F 7 am-6 pm

• Lab is able to provide patients with the proper Information Release form to complete ahead of time or you may complete the form at the Medical Information office.