



including a neoplasm." The report suggested that a CT examination "is also a consideration for further evaluation of this finding."

██████████ performed the procedures on December 16, 2003. The procedures were successful and ██████████ saw the patient in follow-up for her urological issues on January 7, 2004, and again in April, October and November, 2004. It was ██████████ practice to put his initials on lab results and other patient reports he received in his office. The x-ray report in question did not contain ██████████ initials, which most likely reflected that the report was placed into the chart before ██████████ had an opportunity to review it, presumably on the day he was performing the urological procedures on the patient. ██████████ advised that he would have expected the anesthesiologist who had requested the chest x-ray to have followed up with the patient, if in fact there were abnormalities noted.

#### **Root Cause Analysis**

Although ██████████ had in place a system whereby patient reports would not be placed in the chart until his initials were on the report indicating that he had reviewed them, ██████████ took advantage of a program offered by his liability insurer and authorized a risk management survey to identify areas where ██████████ practice and procedures could be improved. The survey resulted in ██████████ implementing the procedures set forth in the next section.

#### **Changes to Practice Protocols to Minimize The Chance of Future Occurrences**

As per the recommendation of the risk management consultant who has reviewed ██████████ practice, ██████████ has established a patient tracking system regarding diagnostic test results to ensure that all reports are returned and appropriately reviewed. ██████████ has instituted a centralized log for diagnostic tests performed outside the office or sent outside the office for interpretation. The log contains the patient's name, the test ordered, the date the test is to be performed, the location where the test is to be performed, and the date the test results are received in the office. ██████████ believes that implementation of this system will minimize the chance of future occurrences.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either ██████████ me.