21st Century Cures Act – Information Blocking

The 21st Century Cures Act is a government regulation which requires health providers and health IT providers to allow release of patient health information, so patients have complete transparency into the cost and outcomes of their care. Aspirus will track patient requests and respond to the request within 10 days. If the requested information cannot be provided electronically through MyAspirus, Aspirus will find an alternative method to deliver the patient's requested information.

The 21st Century Cures Act allows patients to have immediate access to their lab, imaging, and pathology results, as well as ED, inpatient, and outpatient progress notes. All providers, including credentialed providers who perform services at Aspirus and the Aspirus independent practices, are affected. Any medical information that is blocked by a clinician must meet strict criteria and be documented appropriately.

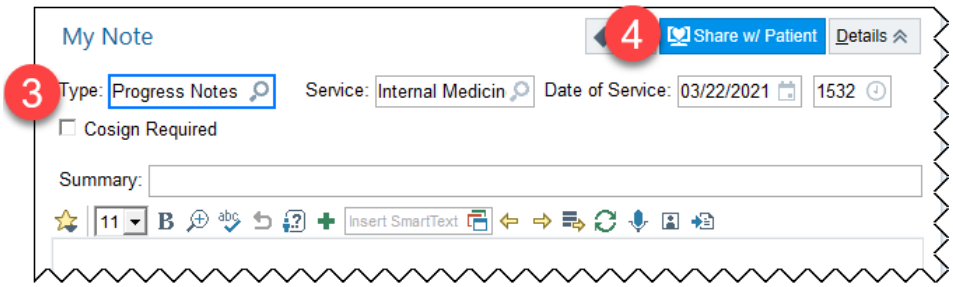
Try It Out – Note Sharing

Emergency, inpatient, and outpatient notes authored by a provider are set to share with the patient by default. If there is a clinically appropriate reason for the note to not be shared with the patient, follow the steps below to prevent that note from automatically releasing to the patient.

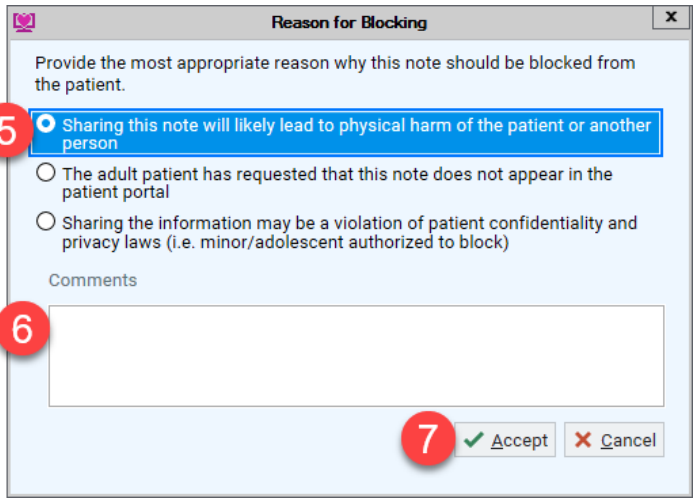
Inpatient/Hospital Provider:
Notes authored by the following clinicians will be automatically shared with patients by default:
Physician, anesthesiologist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advance practice registered nurse, nurse anesthetist, resident, midwife, psychologist, podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, social worker, registered dietitian, physical therapist, occupational therapist, respiratory therapist, speech therapist, and recreation therapist.

Roles/disciplines not listed above (i.e., certified nursing assistant, registered nurse, etc.) will automatically have their signed notes blocked from being shared with the patient. The note needs to be signed so Epic can check the note author and exclude the note from being shared with the patient when applicable.
CNAs/RNs: Please leave "Share w/ Patient" defaulted as selected.

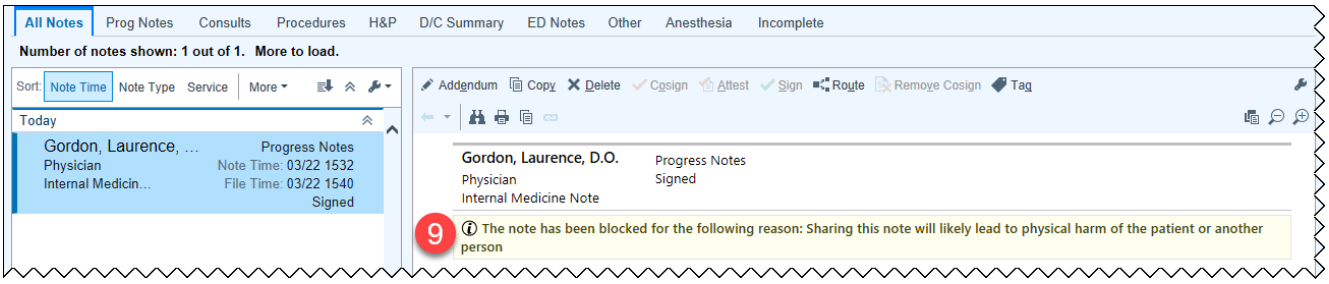
1. Click **Notes**.
2. Click **New Note**.
3. Select the note type.
4. Click **Share w/ Patient** to unselect and prevent the note from being shared to the patient.



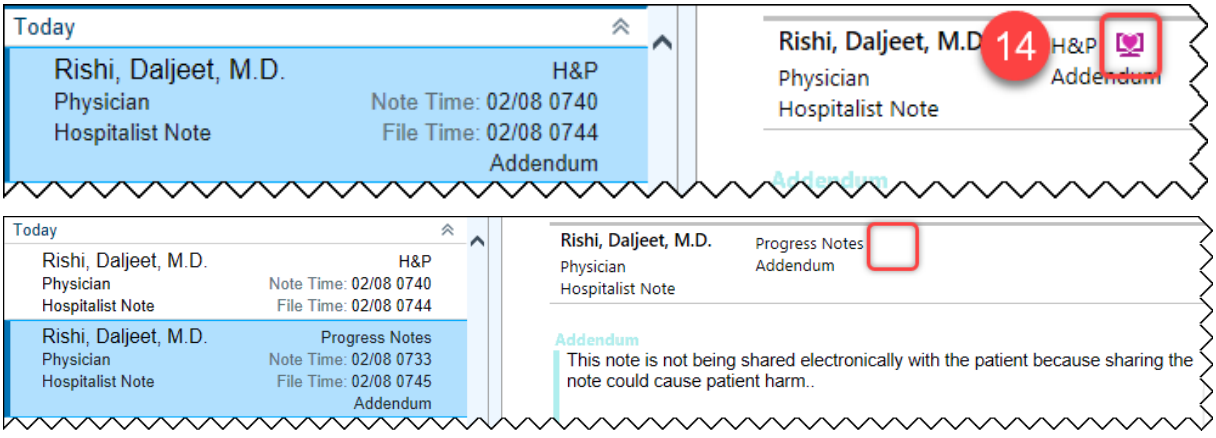
5. Address the Reason for Blocking by selecting one of the options.
6. Enter additional comments, if necessary.
7. Click **Accept**.



8. From the Note, click **Sign.**
9. The reason the note has been blocked from the patient will display at the top of the signed note.



10. If you need to prevent a previous note from being shared with the patient, single click the signed note and click **Addendum**.
11. Click **Share w/ Patient** to unselect and prevent the note from being shared to the patient. Address the Reason for Blocking.
12. Click **Sign** to sign the addended note.
13. Single click a signed note to determine if the note is released to the patient.
14. If there is a MyAspirus icon next to the note type, that signifies the note is released to the patient. If there is not an icon, the note is not released to the patient to view through MyAspirus.

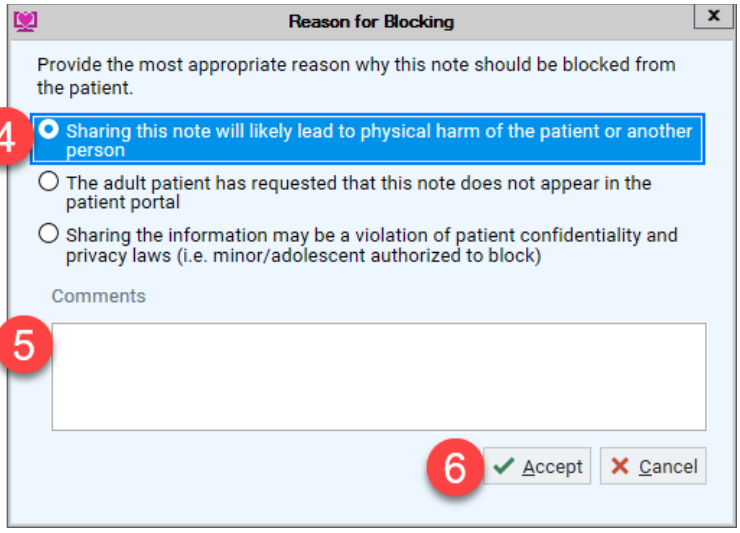


Emergency Department Provider:
Notes authored by the following clinicians will be automatically shared with patients by default:
ED Physician, physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, resident, and social worker.

Roles/disciplines not listed above (i.e., certified nursing assistant, registered nurse, HUC, etc.) will automatically have their signed notes blocked from being shared with the patient. The note needs to be signed so Epic can check the note author and exclude the note from being shared with the patient when applicable.
CNAs/RNs/HUCs: Please leave "Share w/ Patient" defaulted as selected.

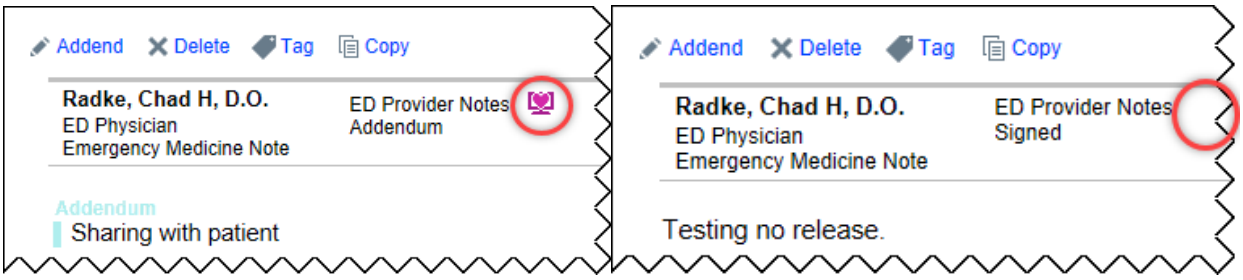
1. Click **My Note**.
2. Click **Create Note**.
3. Click **Share w/ Patient** to unselect and prevent the note from being shared to the patient.

4. Address the Reason for Blocking by selecting one of the options.
5. Enter additional comments, if necessary.
6. Click **Accept**.



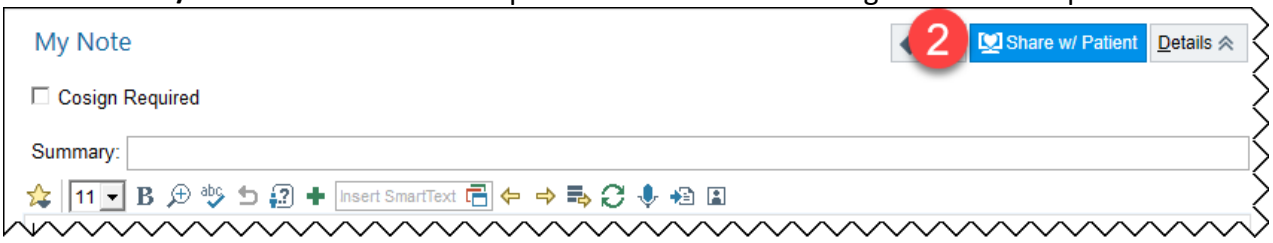
7. From the Note, click **Sign.**
8. If you need to prevent a previous note from being shared with the patient, single click the signed note and click **Addend**.
9. Click **Share w/ Patient** to unselect and prevent the note from being shared to the patient. Address the Reason for Blocking.

10. Single click a signed note to determine if the note is released to the patient.
11. If there is a MyAspirus icon next to the note type that signifies the note is released to the patient. If there is not an icon the note is not released to the patient to view through MyAspirus.

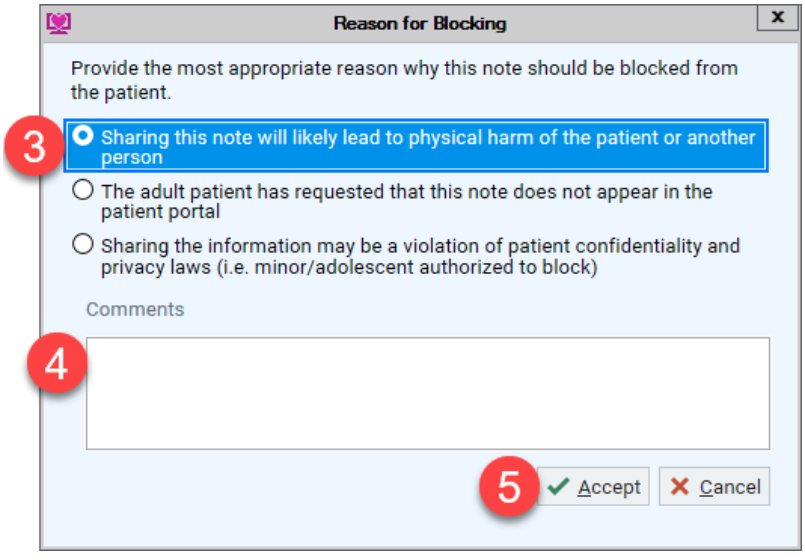


Outpatient/Clinic Provider:
Notes authored by the following clinicians will be automatically shared with patients by default: Physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advance practice registered nurse, podiatrist, optometrist, dentist, chiropractor, midwife, psychologist, social worker, resident, registered dietitian, diabetes educator, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, and recreation therapist.

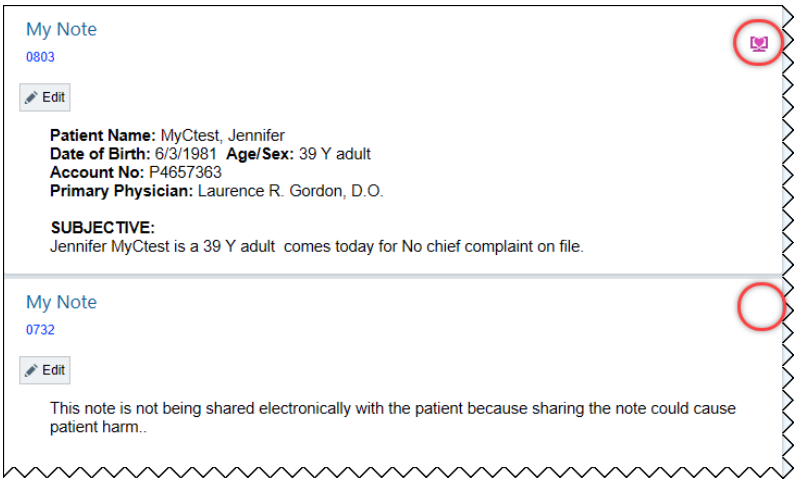
1. Click **Notes**.
2. Click **Share w/ Patient** to unselect and prevent the note from being shared to the patient.



3. Address the Reason for Blocking by selecting one of the options.
4. Enter additional comments, if necessary.
5. Click **Accept**.



6. From Notes, click **Accept.**
7. If you need to prevent a previous note from being shared with the patient, from the Notes activity, click **Edit**.
8. Click **Share w/ Patient** to unselect and prevent the note from being shared to the patient. Address the Reason for Blocking.
9. Click **Accept** to sign the addended note.
10. If there is a MyAspirus icon in the upper right-hand corner that signifies the note is released to the patient. If there is not an icon the note is not released to the patient to view through MyAspirus.

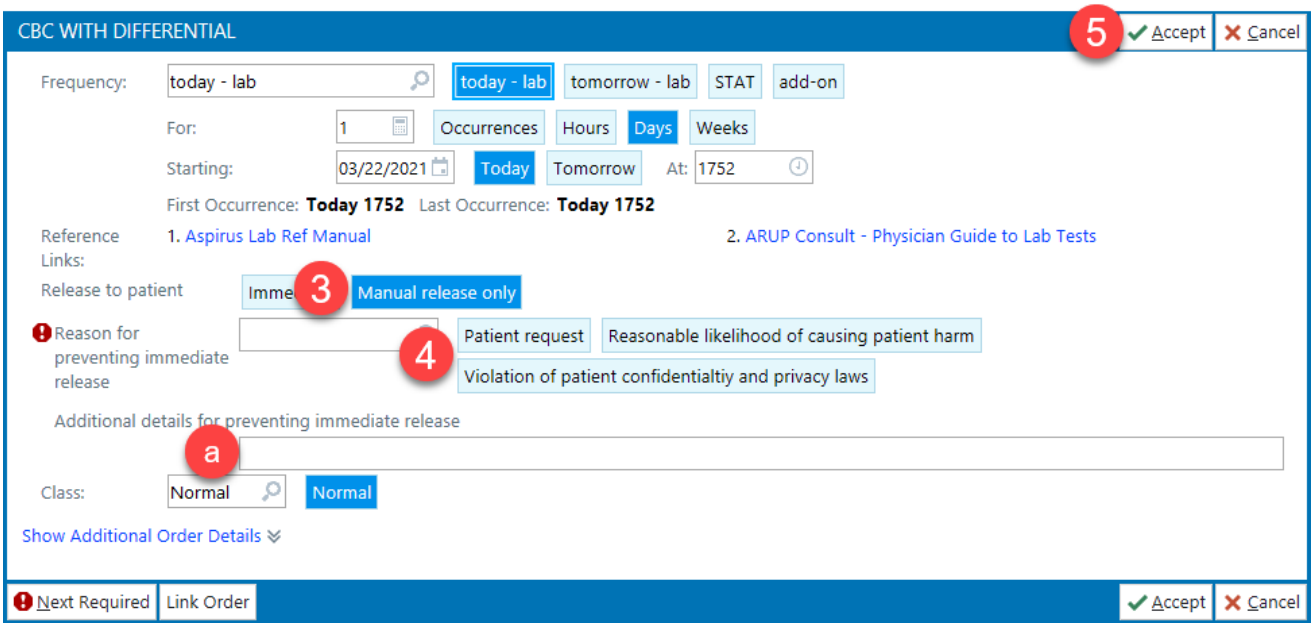


Try It Out – Lab/Imaging/Pathology Ordering

Inpatient and outpatient labs, imaging, and pathology results automatically release to the patient upon the order being finalized. If there is a clinically appropriate reason for the result to not be shared with the patient, follow the steps below to prevent that result from automatically releasing to the patient. The reason for preventing immediate release is order specific.

Inpatient/Hospital and Emergency Department:

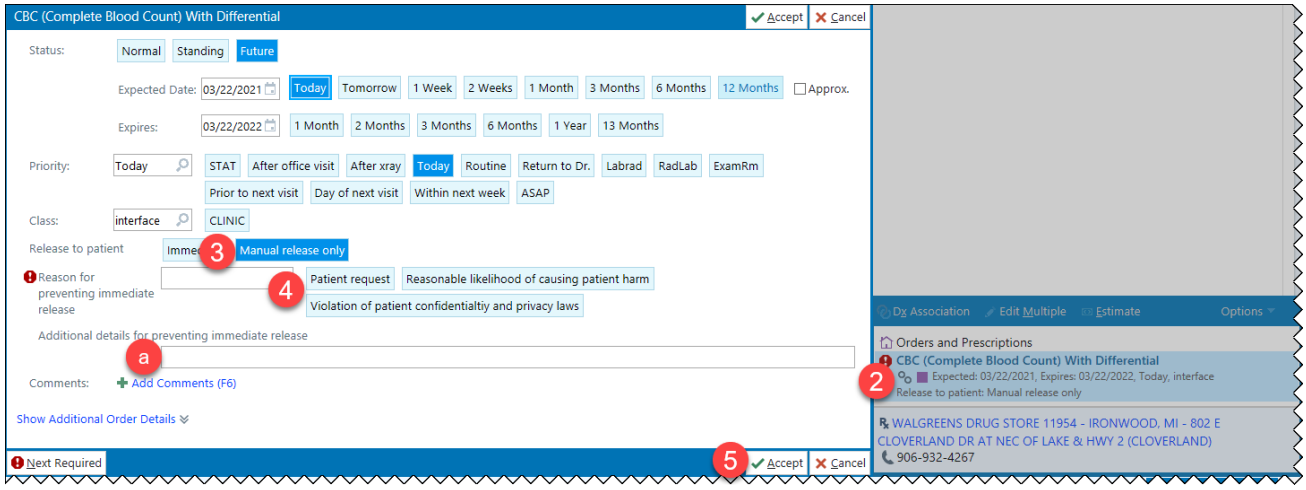
1. Search for the order.
2. From the Order Details, find **Release to patient** section within the order.
3. Click **Manual release only**.
4. Complete the **Reason for preventing immediate release.**
   a. Type any additional comments.
5. Click **Accept**.



6. Associate a diagnosis with the order.
7. Click **Sign**.

Outpatient/Clinic:

1. Search for the order.
2. Click the **Order Details**.
3. Find **Release to patient** section within the order, click **Manual release only**.
4. Complete the **Reason for preventing immediate release**.
   a. Type any additional comments.
5. Click **Accept**.

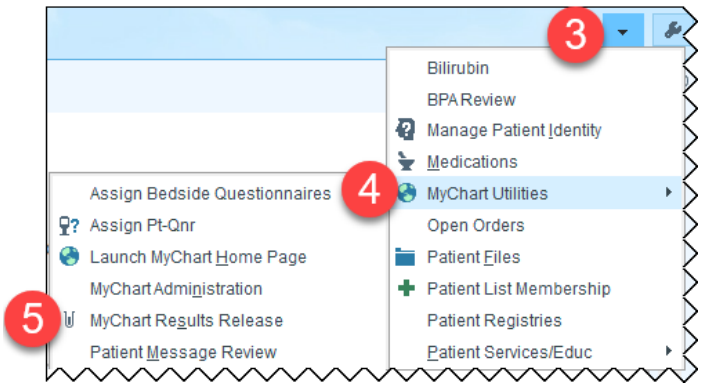


6. Associate a diagnosis with the order.
7. Click **Sign Orders**.

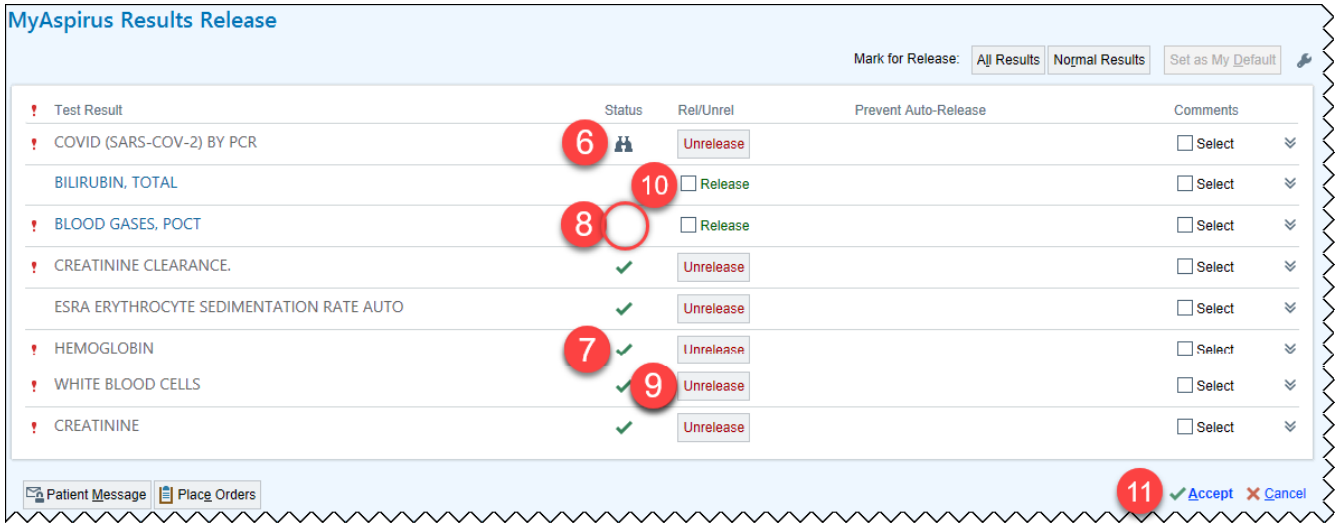
Try It Out – MyAspirus Results Release

Inpatient and outpatient labs, imaging, and pathology results automatically release to the patient upon the order being finalized unless the result is marked as manual release only upon ordering. If there is a result which has been automatically released to the patient and not viewed, you can Unrelease that result.

1. Click **Chart** or **Patient Station**.
2. Search for the patient.
3. Once in the patient's chart (non-encounter) click the **More** drop-down arrow.
4. Click **MyChart Utilities**.
5. Click **MyChart Result Release**.

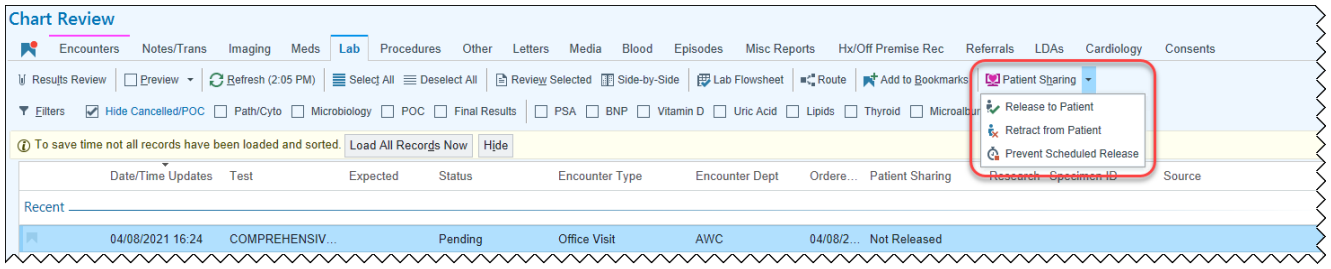
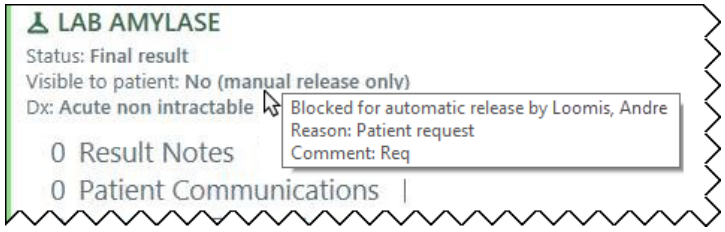


6. Results with binoculars under the Status column have been viewed by the patient.
7. If the result has a green check mark that signifies the patient has not viewed the result, but the result has been released to the patient.
8. If there is no icon displayed under the Status column that means the result has not been released for the patient to view.
9. Click **Unrelease** for the specific result(s) you do not want the patient to see. For example: You may not want to the patient to see their imaging or pathology result until you can talk to the patient first.
10. If there are results that are not released to the patient, click **Release**.
11. To save changes, click **Accept**.



You Can Also…

Result release tools are available throughout Chart Review. On order-related Chart Review tabs, providers can release and retract results to patients in MyAspirus, as well as add comments.



Text appears if a test result was not released to the patient and why it appears. Hover over the text to see the name of the user who prevented the result from being released in case they need to be contacted.