

PROCEDURES

A. Criteria for Critical Phoneables

Critical phoneable results are defined.: These limits have been defined specifically for the community laboratory environment and are approved by the Medical Director for use.

Critical – A result that will cause the patient to suffer a life-threatening event if not communicated and treated immediately. These results show marked deviation from reference intervals suggesting that, if unexpected, a patient’s life is in danger and prompt medical action may be required. These must be called as soon as results are available during lab hours

Chemistry: Summary of Critical Results Figure 1805-1

A. Critical Values - Chemistry/Hematology

Test	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Alk. Phos		1360 U/L
ALT		650 U/L
Amylase		1150 U/L
AST		400 U/L
Bilirubin (Total)		257 umol/L
Calcium	< 1.75 mmol/L	> 3.0 mmol/L
CK		500 u/L
Creatinine		500 umol/L
Digoxin		> 2.0 ug/L
GGT		600 U/L
Glucose	< 2.8 mmol/L	> 17.0 mmol/L
Phenytoin/Dilantin		> 21 mg/L
Potassium	2.5 mmol/L	Fax 2.5 – 3.0 mmol/L Fax 5.4 – 5.9 mmol/L Phone 5.9 – 6.0 mmol/L Phone > 6.0 mmol/L
Sodium	125 mmol/L	> 150 mmol/L Fax 125 – 129 mmol/L Phone < 125 mmol/L
Lithium		> 1.2 mmol/L
Magnesium	0.50	2.0
WBC Count	≤ 2.0 x 10 ⁹ /L	≥ 37.0 x 10 ⁹ /L
Platelet Count	≤ 37.0 x 10 ⁹ /L	≥ 910 x 10 ⁹ /L
Hemoglobin	≤ 66 g/L	≥ 200 g/L
INR		≥ 4.5 sec
P.T.T.		≥ 68 sec
Malaria	Positive	
Total Protein (TP)	40	
BUN		50 mmol/L

B. Critical Values - Microbiology

Circumstance	Laboratory Policy
Physician's office requests verbal laboratory reports via telephone	Reports will be faxed instead to the fax number listed in the laboratory computer system
STAT/ASAP preliminary results as requested on requisition	Reports will be faxed to the fax number listed in the laboratory computer system
GC Cultures that are Positive for <i>N.gonorrhoeae</i>	Phoned to referring physician and faxed to STD control as soon as culture is complete. A final report is issued to both.
Urethral gram stain Positive for Gram negative intracellular diplococci	Phoned to referring physician and to STD control as soon as culture is complete. A final report is issued to physician.
Trichomonas Positive results	Phoned to referring physician
Preliminary results of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> on eye specimens	Faxed to the referring physician ASAP
Preliminary results that include Group A Streptococcus and have further culture results to follow	Reports will be faxed to the physician fax number listed in the laboratory computer system or written on requisition.
Completed reports of Group A Streptococcus	Faxed to the referring physician ASAP
Completed reports of Groups A, C & G Streptococcus from throat cultures	Faxed to Manitoba Clinic Pediatricians