

ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES CRITICAL VALUES – CHEMISTRY

Critical Value (also called panic value) describes a lab test result that may indicate a life-threatening situation; immediate notification of the physician (directly or *via* RN or Nursing Station) is required. Additional circumstances where immediate notification is required may also be included in this document.

Reporting Requirements:

Confirm results at lab level by checking patient ID and sample # on tube, repeating test, and noting previous results. If results do not make sense, a call to patient's nurse verifying clinical plausibility is appropriate. If not, a redraw or repeat on another instrument may be necessary before reporting final results. Be sure to check if other departments need a new specimen when a redraw is needed.

Hospital Inpatients and Outpatients:

As soon as critical values are confirmed, telephone results to appropriate station within 10 minutes of result verification, regardless of the time of day. Stats will automatically be broadcast to the station printers.

Chemistry & Toxicology:

In addition, note in "Private Comments" in Ultra. At the prompt enter: Affected test, name of person called, date (if different from date of testing), time, tech ID.

Reference Lab Client:

Call the critical value to Reference Lab Staff and they will report it to the physician's office or nursing home. If the Reference Lab staff is not available - late evenings and weekends - call the physician's answering service, regardless of the time of day.

TEST	LOW CRITICAL VALUE	HIGH CRITICAL VALUE	EXCEPTIONS
Ammonia, blood		> 80 µmol/L	
Amylase		> 400 U/L	
BUN		> 100 mg/dl	Do not call Dialysis
Calcium	< 7 mg/dl	> 13 mg/dl	
Carboxyhemoglobin		> 20%	
CK		> 1,500	Outpatient Only
CKMB		> 7.0	Outpatient Only
CO ₂	< 10 mmol/L	> 40 mmol/L	
Creatinine		> 7 mg/dl	Do not call Dialysis
Fetal Fibronectin		POSITIVE	
Glucose - newborn	< 40 mg/dl	> 300 mg/dl	
Glucose - CSF	< 40 mg/dl	> 250 mg/dl	
Glucose - adult	< 40 mg/dl	> 400 mg/dl	
HIV (Rapid)		POSITIVE	
Magnesium	< 1.2 mg/dl	> 4.0 for non-OB patients > 8.0 for OB patients (Sta. 54,64,65)	
Neonatal & Total Bili		≥ 15.0 mg/dl	
Phosphorus	< 1.0 mg/dl	> 10 mg/dl	
pH, arterial	< 7.20	> 7.60	
pCO ₂ , arterial	< 20 mmHg	> 70 mmHg	
pO ₂ , arterial	< 40 mmHg		
Potassium	< 3.0 mmol/L	> 6.0 mmol/L	
Potassium - newborn	< 3.0 mmol/L	> 8.0 mmol/L	
Potassium - pre-surg	< 3.5 mmol/L		
Sodium	< 120 mmol/L	> 160 mmol/L	
Troponin T		Troponin T > 0.1	Outpatient Only
Uric acid		> 13 mg/dl	

ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES CRITICAL VALUES - TOXICOLOGY

Critical Value (also called panic value) describes a lab test result that may indicate a life-threatening situation; immediate notification of the physician (directly or *via* RN or HUC) is required. Additional circumstances where immediate notification is required may also be included in this document.

Reporting Requirements:

Confirm results at lab level by checking patient ID and sample # on tube, repeating test, and noting previous results. (If results do not make sense, a call to patient's nurse verifying clinical plausibility is appropriate. If not, a redraw or repeat on another instrument may be necessary before reporting final results. Be sure to check if other departments need a new specimen when a redraw is needed.)

Inpatient:

As soon as critical values are confirmed, telephone results to appropriate station within 10 minutes of result verification, regardless of the time of day. Stats will automatically be broadcast to the station printers.

Reference Lab Client:

Call the critical value to Reference Lab Staff and they will report it to the physician's office or nursing home. If the Reference Lab staff is not available - late evenings and weekends - call the physician's answering service, regardless of the time of day.

Chemistry & Toxicology:

In addition, note in "Private Comments" in Ultra. At the prompt enter: Affected test, name of person called, date (if different from date of testing), time, tech ID.

TEST	LOW CRITICAL VALUE	HIGH CRITICAL VALUE	EXCEPTIONS
Acetaminophen		> 120 µg/ml	
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)		> 12 µg/ml	
Digoxin (Lanoxin)		> 2.5 ng/ml	
Ethanol		> 0.300 mg/dl	
Gentamicin, trough		> 2 µg/ml	
Gentamicin, peak		> 12 µg/ml	
Lithium		> 1.5 meq/l	
Phenobarbitol		> 50 µg/ml	
Phenytoin (Dilantin)		> 30 µg/ml	
Phenytoin – Free (Unbound)		> 3.0 µg/ml	
Primidone		> 15 µg/ml	
Salicylate		> 35 mg/dl	
Theophylline (Aminophylline)		> 20 µg/ml	
Tobramycin, trough		> 2 µg/ml	
Tobramycin, peak		> 12 µg/ml	
Valproic Acid (Depakane)		> 150 µg/ml	
Valproic Acid – Free		> 40 µg/ml	
Vancomycin, trough		> 20 µg/ml	
Vancomycin, peak		> 60 µg/ml	