



Procedure BRSI.100.002

Subject	BRSI.100.002 - Alert Value Policy		
Department / Location	Laboratory and Pathology / Branch Sites		
Owner	East Region Laboratory Manager		
Stakeholder/ Reviewer(s)			
Effective Date	07/30/18	Review Frequency	1 Year
Approval Date	05/09/2024		
Scope	Mattoon and Danville Laboratory		

Attachments N/A

Purpose

A. Method / Principle

1. To define laboratory test results which may indicate a severe illness or a life threatening condition. These results require **immediate** notification of the ordering physician, or others as defined in the notification procedure.

Definitions N/A

Statement of Policy

- A. It is the policy of Carle Foundation Hospital Laboratory to **verbally** notify the ordering physician, or others as defined in the notification procedure, whenever the verified result of a pre-defined laboratory test exceeds the limits stated below.
- B. When communicating results about a patient with a caregiver, two patient identifiers will be used.
 1. When communicating with a Carle caregiver, the patient's full name and medical record number will be used as the identifiers.
 2. When communicating with non-Carle caregivers, the patient's full name and date of birth will be used.
- C. Laboratory staff will request that the person receiving the verbal result repeat/read back the result.
 1. Documentation of the telephone call (date, time, first and last name, credential, and read/repeat back confirmation) is recorded in the LIS call box.
 2. Read/repeat back confirmation is noted using RB.
- D. All Alert values will be reviewed and documented by the section manager or designee.

Specimen Requirements N/A

Reagents / Material / Equipment

- A. Reagents N/A
- B. Calibrators N/A
- C. Controls N/A
- D. Materials and Equipment
 1. Computer loaded with SOFT LAB Laboratory Information System

Calibration N/A

Quality Control N/A

Procedure

A. Alert Values – laboratory personnel will review each instrument print and determine if any of the following preliminary alert values are present.

1. **Hemoglobin**

- a. 8.0 mg/dL or below
- b. Values 22 mg/dl or greater for patients over 2 months old.
- c. Values 26 mg/dl or greater for patients under 2 months old.

2. **Platelets**

- a. 30,000/ul or below (<10,000 for Oncology)
- b. 1,000,000/ul or above

3. **White Blood Cells**

- a. Values 2.0×10^3 /ul or below, Excluding Oncology
- b. Values 25×10^3 /ul or above, Excluding Oncology

Test	Less than or Equal to	Greater than or Equal to	Significant Change
Calcium	6.0 mg/dL	13.0 mg/dL	-1.0 below +1.0 above
CO ₂	10 mEq/L	40 mEq/L	-2.0 below +5.0 above
Creatinine, serum	-----	5.0 mg/dL	(see a below)**
Dimer	Greater than or equal to 600 ng/ml	-----	-----
Glucose, serum	54 mg/dL	400 mg/dL	-10 mg/dL below +100 mg/dL above
Magnesium	1.2 mg/dL	5.0 mg/dL	-0.4 below +1.0 above
Troponin I	Greater than or equal to 0.10		
Potassium	2.8 mEq/L	6.2 mEq/L Adults 7.8 mEq/L Up to 4 wks	-0.5 below +0.5 above
Sodium	120 mEq/L	160 mEq/L	-5.0 below +5.0 above

B. **Notification Procedure**

- 1. Once the alert value has been verified, an MT/MLT/Degreed Lab Assistant will notify the appropriate person as outlined below. The MT/MLT/Degreed Lab Assistant will attempt to contact the responsible physician or designee in the order listed below.
- 2. The laboratory will not text alert values to providers pagers or cellphones. Texting of alert values could result in HIPAA violations
- 3. Notify the ordering physician or their nurse.
- 4. If the ordering physician or their designated nurse is not available, notify the physician on call for the practice or their nursing staff should be notified.
- 5. In the event that the physician on call or their designated nursing staff is not available, call the Patient Advisory Nurse.

C. The staff member receiving the verbal result will repeat/read back the verbal result. Documentation of the telephone call (date, time and first and last name of caregiver notified, credential and read/repeat back confirmation) is recorded in the LIS call box per LIS procedure. Read/repeat back confirmation is noted using RB.

Reporting Results

A. See above in the procedure how to document alert value phone calls.

Limitations/Interferences N/A

Problem Resolution N/A

Notes

- A. The Laboratory will review the Alert Value Policy on an annual basis. Interim review will be done by the Laboratory Medical Director if significant changes are needed.

Other Related Links N/A

References N/A

Electronic Approval on File

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Mattoon Laboratory Medical Director

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Danville Laboratory Medical Director