

<b>Subject</b>	RMHLB.100.200 - Critical Lab Results		
<b>Department / Location</b>	Not Set		
<b>Owner</b>	Jerri Frost (Spvr - RMH Lab)		
<b>Reviewer(s)</b>	Mgr - Lab Ops East/South Region, Physician - Lab & Pathology		
<b>Approver(s)</b>	Richland Document Approval, Bruce Wellman (Physician - Lab & Pathology)		
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<b>Additional Scope:</b>			

Effective 8/1/2015

**Purpose:**

To define which verified laboratory test result indicates a severe illness or a life threatening condition. An alert value result requires laboratory staff to initiate notification to the ordering physician, RN, or LPN. Verification by a read back process will be done to assure accuracy and will be documented. All critical results must be communicated within one hour of completion.

**Procedure:**

1. Critical test results will be received by a physician, RN, or LPN. Once received, these telephoned critical test results will be repeated back to the individual relaying the results to verify accuracy
2. The read back for critical laboratory results will be documented in the laboratory LIS and include the initials of the provider or nurse and the time.
3. Certain tests have standing orders/protocols to direct patient treatment. In these instances, calling the physician is not required

**Inpatients:**

- Report to the patient's attending physician, RN, or LPN

**Outpatients:**

- Lab staff will notify the physician by telephone. If the physician is not available, laboratory staff will notify the on-call physician covering
- Nursing home and home health patients: Lab staff will notify the responsible agency nursing home of critical Lab results by telephone

Note: Once a physician has been notified of the initial critical result, they may give a specific order to only be notified if a certain level is reached

Laboratory results considered critical:  
(See next page)

Laboratory Results Considered Critical:

<b>A. Chemistry:</b>				
1	Glucose	< 50.0	> 400.0	mg/dl
2	Sodium	< 120.0	> 150.0	MEQ/L
3	Potassium	< 3.0	> 6.0	MEQ/L
4	Chloride	< 85.0	> 120.0	MEQ/L
5	Troponin I		> 0.10	ng/ml
6	Therapeutic drugs		above the therapeutic limit	
7	Calcium	< 7.5	> 12.0	mg/dl
8	Magnesium	< 1.0	> 4.0	mg/dl
9	Neonatal Bili		> 15.0	mg/dl
<b>B. Hematology</b>				
1	WBC	< 2,000.0	> 40,000.0	
2	HGB	< 7.0		gm/dl
3	PLT	< 30,000	> 1,500,000	
<b>C. Microbiology</b>				
1	Positive Blood culture or CSF culture (on ALL patients)			
2	Positive CSF Gram Stain (on ALL patients)			
3	Positive MRSA or VREC cultures (Inpatients only - Call Nursing Unit)			
4	Positive CRE (Inpatients only - Call Nursing Unit)			
5	Positive ESBL (Inpatients only - Call Nursing Unit)			
<b>D. Blood Bank</b>				
1	Positive Direct Coombs on Cord Blood			
2	Auto or Alloantibodies on Type and Screen			
3	Incompatible Crossmatch			
<b>E. ABG's:</b>				
1	pH	< 7.25	> 7.55	
2	PCO2	< 20.0	> 60.0	mmHg
3	PO2	< 40.0		mmHg
<b>F. Coagulation</b>				
1	PT-INR's:		> 5.0	
2	PTT		> 150	seconds

**Electronic Approval on File**

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