

Date: April 15, 2013

To: All Zones
Physicians, Nurse Managers and Educators, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Standardization of Critical Values for Chemistry and Hematology ****Revised****

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Key Messages:

- Critical Values for Chemistry and Hematology will be standardized across all laboratories either provincially or by Zone.
- Due to the magnitude of this initiative, standardization will occur over the next several months.
- The first changes for Chemistry analytes (effective April 16, 2013) and for Hematology analytes (effective June 18, 2013) are listed in the tables below.

Chemistry Analytes

Analyte	Age/Other	Critical Values		Units	Comments
		Less than	Greater than		
Calcium		< 1.65	> 3.25	mmol/L	
Lipase		No Critical Values			
Phosphate		< 0.40	N/A	mmol/L	
Urea		No Critical Values			

Hematology Analytes

Analyte	Age/Other	Critical Values		Units	Comments
		Less than	Greater than		
Absolute Neutrophil		< 0.6		x 10 ⁹ /L	
Platelets		North, Central Zones < 30	N/A	x 10 ⁹ /L	A critically low platelet count does not necessarily mandate platelet transfusion. Clinical correlation is required.
		Edmonton, Calgary, South Zones < 20			
WBC		< 0.6	>99.9		
HIT assay		Positive			
INR (PT)		N/A	> 5.0		

- Laboratory Bulletins announcing future changes for other tests will not be distributed.

Why this is important:

- The standardization of Critical Values will provide consistency as to the levels at which physicians are notified of a Critical Result.

Action Required:

- The Laboratory will adjust, as required, the levels at which physicians are notified of a Critical Result as the standardized Critical Values are implemented.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, AHS Laboratory Services, at: 403-343-4723 or by email at: james.wesenberg@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, AHS Laboratory Services