

CRITICAL VALUES LIST

A critical value is defined as one that represents a pathophysiological state at such variance with normal as to be potentially life threatening or which requires immediate medical attention. The Department of Pathology Clinical Service has developed in conjunction with the UTMB Quality of Care Committee, a system for reporting critical values. When a critical value is obtained, it is repeated when appropriate, called, then verified.

Process for Reporting Critical Values:

Inpatients: Laboratory personnel will report critical values to a licensed independent practitioner and request a verification readback of the critical value.

Outpatients: During normal clinic hours, the values may be reported to either the physician or nurse. After hours, laboratory personnel contact in order, the requesting physician, if unavailable, the Faculty Physician, and then the Healthcare Hotline. The Healthcare Hotline is then responsible for notifying the services senior resident on duty and if unavailable then, the faculty on blue pager.

NOTE: The attending pathologist calls Surgical Pathology critical values directly to the attending healthcare provider, however readback is not required.

| ANALYTE | | CRITICAL VALUE |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| CHEMISTRY | | |
| Bilirubin (Bu) | Serum, cord blood Serum, neonate | > 3.0 mg/dL > 18 mg/dL |
| Calcium, ionized | | < 3.0 or > 6.5 mg/dL |
| Calcium, total | | < 6.0 or > 13.0 mg/dL |
| Glucose, serum | General Neonates | < 50 or > 450 mg/dL < 30 or > 300 mg/dL |
| Osmolality | | < 240 or > 320 mOsm/Kg |
| pH | | < 7.20 or > 7.60 |
| pO ₂ | | < 40 mm Hg |
| Sodium | | < 120 or > 160 mmol/L |
| Potassium | | < 3.0 or > 6.0 mmol/L |
| URINALYSIS | | |
| Glucose, urine | Newborns to < 1 yr | Positive |
| Ketones, urine | Newborns to < 1 yr | Positive |
| Reducing Substances, urine | Newborns to < 1 yr | Positive |
| Red Cell Cast | | Present |
| HEMATOPATHOLOGY | | |
| APTT | | ≥ 70 seconds (if patient is not on anticoagulant therapy) |
| Fibrinogen | | ≤ 100 mg/dL |
| Hematocrit | Adults Infants | ≤ 15% ≤ 21% |
| Hemoglobin | Adults Infants | ≤ 5.0 g/dL ≤ 7.0 g/dL |
| Platelet | | < 50.0 x 10 ³ /uL ≥ 1.0 x 10 ⁶ /uL |
| Protime (PT) | | ≥ 42.1 seconds INR ≥ 4.5 (effective 11/17/07) |
| Joint Fluid WBC | | ≥ 50,000/mm ³ |
| WBC | | ≤ 2.0 x 10 ³ /uL |
| MICROBIOLOGY | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive blood culture direct Gram stain • Positive CSF smear or culture • Positive HSV I or II cultures or DFA from neonates and patients in L&D or the Pavilion • Positive CSF Cryptococcal antigen • Positive C. difficile toxin • Positive smear for <u>blood parasites</u> • Positive <u>AFB</u> smear | | |