



STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

POLICY/PROCEDURE

Category: Laboratory	PAGE NUMBER: 1 of 6
Subject: Critical Values – Responsible Party	DISTRIBUTION: Hospital Wide Manuals
CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2014	NEXT REVIEW DATE: October 2017

Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) critical lab values will be phoned to a designated responsible party as outlined in this procedure.

SPECIAL POINTS

Critical values are to be posted in each area of the Laboratory/Nursing Unit, see Appendix.

DEFINITIONS

Critical Value: a laboratory result indicative of a pathophysiological state which is life threatening unless some action is taken in a very short time and for which an appropriate action is possible.

PROCEDURE

Laboratory Responsibility

1. The technologist performing the test will telephone the critical value result to the responsible party immediately.
2. If the responsible party is not available or another responsible party has not been designated, or cannot be reached, then the physician 'On Call' will be contacted with the result.
3. The designated responsible parties are:

**STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
POLICY DOCUMENT**

Laboratory: Critical Values – Responsible Party

L-0910

Patient Designation	First Party Responsible for Result	Secondary Party Responsible	Third Party Responsible
Inpatient	Unit Registered Nurse or Designate	Ordering Physician/ Nurse Practitioner or Designate	Stanton Emergency Department Physician
Outpatient Primary Care Clinic and Frame Lake	Ordering Physician/Nurse Practitioner Monday – Friday (between 0830 to 1700 hours)	Clinic Staff on-call: Monday & Tuesday (1700 to 2100 hours) Phone: 765-7752 Wednesday & Thursday (1700 to 2100 hours) Phone: 873-3601 Saturday (1000 to 1500 hours) Phone: 756-7752	Stanton Emergency Department Physician
Other Hospital	Laboratory Technologist at respective hospital/health centre	Ordering Physician/Nurse Practitioner or Designate	Emergency Department of the specific Hospital Physician
Health Centre	Nurse in Charge	Registered community/staff Nurse	Stanton Senior Director on-call
Outpatient STHA specialist clinics	Ordering specialist	On-call specialist	Stanton Emergency Department Physician

4. Inform the person receiving the result(s) that this is a critical value.
5. Note on the report (in the Laboratory Information System under 'Comment') that the result has been telephoned.

Nursing Responsibility

1. Telephone the patient's physician immediately.
2. Determine required patient care follow-up.
3. Note on the patient's chart that the result had been phoned as outlined in the documentation step.
4. Note any action taken on the patient's chart.

STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
POLICY DOCUMENT

Laboratory: Critical Values – Responsible Party

L-0910

DOCUMENTATION

Note the following comment on the report/chart:

Result Telephoned to _____ at _____ hours on _____.
(name) (time) (date)

REFERENCES

DynaLIFE_{dx} Medical Laboratories, *Disease Surveillance Regulations R-096-2009*, S.N.W.T., 2009 as amended. Accessed online June 27, 2014 at:
<http://www.dynalifedx.com/Portals/0/pdf/Lab%20procedure%20or%20protocol/Chemistry%20Critical%20Values.pdf>

Reviewed and approved by:


Chair, CRAC 1 Oct 2014

Reviewed and approved by:


Chief Executive Officer 1 Oct 2014
15 Oct 2014

**STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
POLICY DOCUMENT**

Laboratory: Critical Values – Responsible Party

L-0910

Appendix

CHEMISTRY CRITICAL VALUES

Specimen	Age	Critical result		Units
		Less Than or Equal	Greater Than or Equal	
Sodium		125	155	mmol/L
Potassium	30 days or less	2.9	6.4	mmol/L
	Greater than 30 days	2.9	6.0	mmol/L
Calcium	Less than 11 days	1.25	2.70	mmol/L
	11 days and older	1.65	3.20	mmol/L
Glucose	Less than 29 days	2	22	mmol/L
	29 days and older	2.6	25	mmol/L
Serum CO2		10	40	mmol/L
Acetaminophen			990	umol/L
Salicylate			2.5	mmol/L
Digoxin			3.0	nmol/L
Lithium			2.0	mmol/L
Phenytoin	0-2 months		110	umol/L
	3 months or older		160	umol/L
Neonatal Bilirubin			300	umol/L
Phosphorus	1 year or greater	0.3		mmol/L
Magnesium		0.4	1.9	mmol/L
Carbamezapine			100	umol/L
Ethanol			65	mmol/L
Troponin I			0.12	ng/ml

**STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
POLICY DOCUMENT**

Laboratory: Critical Values – Responsible Party

L-0910

HEMATOLOGY CRITICAL VALUES

Specimen	Age	Critical result		Units
		Less Than or Equal	Greater Than or Equal	
Hemoglobin			69	g/L
WBC		1.0	100.0	X 10 ⁹ /L
Absolute Neutrophils		0.5	50.0	X 10 ⁹ /L
Platelets		50.0		X 10 ⁹ /L
INR			4.5	
APTT			100	seconds
Blast Cells	Any blast cells seen with new findings			

MICROBIOLOGY CRITICAL VALUES

Specimen	Critical result
Blood Culture	Positive smear or growth of any organism
CSF Culture	Positive smear or growth of any organism
Deep Wound Culture -from sterile site only	Positive for Group A Strep (<i>S. pyogenes</i>)
Necrotizing fasciitis or Invasive GAS -any specimen/source culture (with relevant history only)	
Non-invasive eye specimens (swabs)	Culture positive for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>P. aeruginosa</i> • <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> • <i>N. meningitidis</i> • <i>B. cereus</i> • <i>Fungus</i>
Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) – genital culture (with relevant history only)	Culture positive for <i>S. aureus</i> or <i>S. pyogenes</i>
RSV test (only performed on children less than or equal to 2 years of age at Stanton)	Positive result

STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
POLICY DOCUMENT

Laboratory: Critical Values – Responsible Party

L-0910

Specimen	Critical result
Risk Group 3 Bacteria from any specimen or source	Positive culture for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Brucella</i> species• <i>Francisella</i> species• <i>Bacillus anthracis</i>• <i>Yersinia pestis</i>• <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i>• Positive stain or culture for acid-fast bacilli (Tuberculosis)
Any specimen or source from a child (13 years old or less)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sperm or <i>Trichomonas</i> on a wet prep or gram stain• Culture positive for <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>
Reportable enteric diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Salmonella</i> sp.

All critical values should be phoned to the appropriate person as outlined in the procedure 'Critical Values - Responsible Party'.