

# STANTON TERRITORIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

## POLICY/PROCEDURE

<b>Category:</b> Laboratory	<b>PAGE NUMBER:</b> 1 of 6
<b>Subject:</b> Critical Values – Responsible Party	<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> Hospital Wide Manuals
<b>CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> January 2017	<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE:</b> January 2020

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 1630 hours)	Clinic Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday &amp; Tuesday (1630 to 2045 hours) Phone: 765-7752</li> <li>• Wednesday &amp; Thursday (1630 to 2045 hours) Phone: 873-3601</li> <li>• Saturday (1000 to 1430 hours) Phone: 765-7752</li> </ul>	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 Emergency Department Physician
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 in the Laboratory Information System in the 'Call Log' that the result has been telephoned. Document the initials of the individual you have given the result to in the 'Call Log'.

**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

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**DOCUMENTATION**

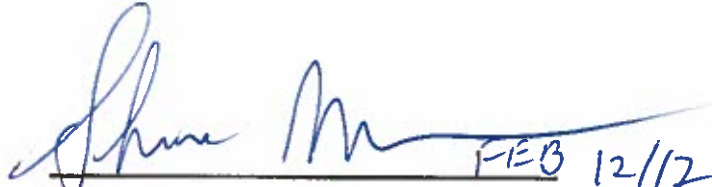
Note the following comment on the report/chart:

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

**REFERENCES**

DynaLIFE<sub>DX</sub> 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, CPAC (signed and dated) FEB 12/17

Reviewed and approved by:

  
Chief Operating Officer (signed and dated)

**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
Carbamazepine			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 <sup>9</sup> /L
Absolute Neutrophils		0.5	50.0	X 10 <sup>9</sup> /L
Platelets		50.0		X 10 <sup>9</sup> /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"> <li>• <i>P. aeruginosa</i></li> <li>• <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i></li> <li>• <i>N. meningitidis</i></li> <li>• <i>B. cereus</i></li> <li>• <i>Fungus</i></li> </ul>
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"><li>• <i>Brucella</i> species</li><li>• <i>Francisella</i> species</li><li>• <i>Bacillus anthracis</i></li><li>• <i>Yersinia pestis</i></li><li>• <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i></li><li>• Positive stain or culture for acid-fast bacilli (Tuberculosis)</li></ul>
Any specimen or source from a child (13 years old or less)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sperm or <i>Trichomonas</i> on a wet prep or gram stain</li><li>• Culture positive for <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i></li></ul>
Reportable enteric diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Salmonella</i> sp.</li></ul>

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