

Blood Sciences Department, Clinical Laboratory Medicine

Critical Results Communication to Primary Care

The Blood Sciences Laboratory telephones critical results to the requesting Primary Care location. If the requesting location is closed (e.g. evenings/weekends), critical results are telephoned to the GP Out of Hours Service. The tables below define the critical results that are telephoned. These are generally based on the guidance provided by the Royal College of Pathologists. *The first set of results that are outside these limits for an individual patient with no known history that could explain the results triggers the telephone call to the requestor.*

Biochemistry

Analyte	Less than	Greater than
Sodium (mmol/L)	120	150
Potassium (mmol/L)	2.5	6.5
Urea (mmol/L)		30 (>10 if <16 yrs)
Creatinine (µmol/L)		354 (>200 if <16 yrs)
Glucose (mmol/L)	2.5	20.0
Adjusted Calcium (mmol/L)	1.80	3.00
Magnesium (mmol/L)	0.4	
Phosphate (mmol/L)	0.3	
Amylase (IU/L)		500
ALT (IU/L)		800
AST (IU/L)		900
Total CK (IU/L)		5000
CRP (mg/L)		300
Troponin-I (ng/L)		500
Neonatal bilirubin (µmol/L)		300
Bile acid (µmol/L)		20
Cortisol (nmol/L)	50 (if not following dexamethasone suppression)	
Acute Kidney Injury Alert	Stage 2 and Stage 3	

Haematology

Analyte	Less than	Greater than
Haemoglobin (g/L)	70	190 #
PCV		0.55 #
WBC Count ($10^9/L$)	0.5	
Neutrophils ($10^9/L$)	0.5	40
Platelets ($10^9/L$)	50	
INR		5
Malarial Parasites	Positive	

Results phoned if limits exceeded on adults ONLY

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring/Toxicology

Analyte	Greater than
Digoxin (µg/L)	2.5
Lithium (mmol/L)	1.5
Phenytoin (mg/L)	25
Phenobarbitone (mg/L)	70
Theophylline (mg/L)	25
Carbamazepine (mg/L)	25
Salicylate (mg/L)	If detected
Paracetamol (mg/L)	If detected

For further information or if you have any queries, please contact:

Consultant Biochemists:

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Consultant Haematologists: via hospital switchboard