

Call-Back Critical Level Values

When a critical value is obtained from a patient specimen, the result will be telephoned to the physician. If a result is obtained after regular office hours, the physician's answering service will be notified and the physician on call will be paged. If the physician can not be reached, a message will be left on the physician's answering machine and a follow up call from the lab will be made to the physician at 9 a.m. the following day.

The written test report will have the critical value result flagged.
This listing is for tests performed at Saint Luke's Regional Laboratories.

CHEMISTRY (Serum/Plasma)		
Calcium, Ionized	<3.5 mg/dL	>7.0 mg/dL
Calcium	<6.0 mg/dL	>14.0 mg/dL
Carbon Dioxide	<10 mEq/L	>45 mEq/L
Potassium		
>1 year	<2.7 mEq/L	>6.0 mEq/L
<1 year	<3.0 mEq/L	>7.0 mEq/L
Sodium	<120 mEq/L	>160 mEq/L
Glucose		
>1 year	<40 mg/dL	>500 mg/dL
<1 year	<30 mg/dL	>300 mg/dL
Neonatal Bilirubin		>20 mg/dL
Magnesium	<1.2 mg/dL	
Phosphorus	<1.0 mg/dL	

BLOOD GASES		
PCO ₂ (arterial)	<20 mm Hg	>70 mm Hg
PO ₂ (arterial only)	<40 mm Hg	
pH (arterial and venous)	<7.21	>7.59

THERAPEUTIC DRUGS	
Digoxin	>3.0 ng/mL
Gentamicin	
Peak	>12.0 µg/mL
Trough	>4.0 µg/mL
Lithium	>2.00 mEq/L
Phenobarbital	>50 µg/mL
Phenytoin, Total	>30.0 µg/mL
Salicylate	≥30 mg/dL
Theophylline	>20.0 µg/mL
Tobramycin	
Peak	>12.0 µg/mL
Trough	>2.5 µg/mL
Vancomycin	
Peak	>40 µg/mL
Trough	>30 µg/mL

COAGULATION	
Prothrombin Time (PT)	INR ≥ 5.0
Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT)	>130 seconds
Fibrinogen	<70 mg/dL
Heparin Anti- Factor Xa (Unfractionated Heparin)	>1.1 IU/mL
Argatroban & Pradaxa	>90 PTT seconds

HEMATOLOGY		
Hematocrit		
Obstetric	<20%	
Neonates		>70%
All others	<18%	>60%
Hemoglobin		
Obstetric	<7.5 g/dL	
All others	<6.0 g/dL	
Platelet Count		
Neonates (<1 year)	<60,000 TH/µL	
All others	<20,000 TH/µL	>1,000,000 TH/µL
WBC Count, Blood (first diagnosis)	<1.0 TH/µL	>50.0 TH/µL
(leukemia patient)		>100.0 TH/µL

Molecular Diagnostics
HSV PCR, Spinal Fluid (new diagnosis) - positive

MICROBIOLOGY
Culture, Blood (Bacterial, Acid Fast and Fungal) - positive smear from liquid culture media bottle
Culture, Spinal Fluid - positive Gram stain or growth on culture
Culture, Sterile Body Fluid (Peritoneal, Synovial, Pericardial, Pleural, Bone Marrow)-positive Gram stain or growth on culture
Malaria Smear - positive