

Critical result values - Referrer

Critical result values are those values that may indicate a life-threatening medical condition and require immediate notification to the referring doctor (irrespective of whether the pathology request was marked urgent). If a result is outside the critical limits, a scientist or pathologist will make every attempt to contact the referring doctor or proxy.

For hospital patients, our staff will contact a telephone number supplied on the pathology request form or otherwise will contact the ward/facility and notify a member of the nursing staff. Our staff will request that the nurse notify the referrer (or the after hours attending doctor) urgently.

For community patients out of surgery hours, our staff will contact a telephone number supplied on the pathology request form, or alternatively a previously supplied private number (home or mobile) recorded in our doctor database.

Results of tests marked urgent will continue to be phoned or faxed according to either specific instructions on the request form or general instructions previously advised by the doctor. Other significant results may be phoned or faxed at the discretion of a pathologist or scientist.

After hours contact details

Please note that many after hours medical services will only accept pathology results for patients under their direct care.

To supply or update your after hours contact details for critical results, please contact:

Doctor Services staff on 1300 SNPATH (1300 767 284)

Biochemistry	
Alcohol	> 300 mg/dL ‡
ALT	> 2500 U/L * †
Ammonia (plasma)	> 100 umol/L
AST	> 2500 U/L * †
Bicarbonate	Adult < 16 or > 45 mmol/L † < 16 years < 16 or > 40 mmol/L †
Bile Acids (pregnancy only)	> 40 umol/L
Bilirubin (Neonatal)	> 400 umol/L
Calcium (corrected)	< 1.50 or > 3.50 mmol/L
Cortisol (unless referred by endocrinologist)	< 80 nmol/L †
C Reactive Protein	> 300 mg/L
Creatinine Increase of > 250 umol/L over any previous results UNLESS on dialysis	
Creatine Kinase (CK)	> 20,000 U/L †
Digoxin	> 3.0 ug/L
Free T4	≤ 5.4 or > 50 pmol/L †
Glucose	IF Bicarbonate < 20 mmol/L AND no previous HbA1c > 6.4% Adult < 2.5 or > 15.0 mmol/L † < 16 years < 2.5 or > 12.0 mmol/L † Otherwise All ages < 2.5 or ≥ 33.0 mmol/L †
Lipase	> 500 U/L †
Lithium	> 2.00 mmol/L
Magnesium	< 0.40 or > 4.00 mmol/L
Paracetamol	> 200 mg/L
Potassium^	Adult < 2.5 or > 6.3 mmol/L Neonatal < 2.5 or > 8.0 mmol/L †
Sodium	< 122 or > 155 mmol/L
Troponin I (if no previous elevated result in last 24 hours)	≥ 100 ng/L
Urea	> 45 mmol/L
Urate	Adult > 1.500 mmol/L Urate in pregnancy (> 20 weeks gestation) IF Creatinine > 90 umol/L OR platelets < 150 OR ALT high > 0.360 mmol/L Otherwise Urate in pregnancy (> 20 weeks gestation) > 0.600 mmol/L
Arterial gases only **	
pH	< 7.1
pCO2	> 80 mmHg
pO2	< 60 mmHg

Benzodiazepine panel	
Clobazam	> 2000 ug/L
Clonazepam	> 200 ug/L
Diazepam	> 10000 ug/L
Nitrazepam	> 400 ug/L
Nor-diazepam	> 2000 ug/L
Oxazepam	> 400 ug/L
Tricyclic Anti-depressant panel	
Amitriptyline	> 2000 ug/L
Clomipramine	> 2000 ug/L
Desipramine	> 2000 ug/L
Dothiepin	> 2000 ug/L
Doxepin	> 1000 ug/L
Imipramine	> 2000 ug/L
Nor-clomipramine	> 2000 ug/L
Nordoxepin	> 1000 ug/L
Nortriptyline	> 2000 ug/L
Haematology/Coagulation	
APTT	> 90 sec
Blood film showing schistocytes with platelets	< 100 x 10 ⁹ /L*
Blood film showing bacteria*	
Fibrinogen	< 0.50 g/L
Haemoglobin	< 70 g/L*
Haemoglobin new borns (up to 28 days old)	< 95g/L* or > 240g/L*
INR	≥ 4.5
Leukaemia (acute)*	
Malarial parasites*	
Neutrophils	< 0.5 x 10 ⁹ /L*
Platelets	< 20 x 10 ⁹ /L*
Platelets in pregnancy	< 80 x 10 ⁹ /L*
WCC	> 100 x 10 ⁹ /L*
WCC children ≤ 14 years of age	> 40.0x10 ⁹ /L*
Microbiology/Molecular Pathology	
Blood cultures: Positive microscopy/culture †	

- * First presentation
- † Out-of-hours contact at discretion of pathologist
- ‡ At discretion of pathologist
- ** Not applicable for hospital in patients or emergency department
- ^ Including corrected for haemolysis