

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

SOUTH TEXAS LABORATORY CRITICAL VALUES

CAP STANDARDS: COM.30000, COM.30100

When laboratory results fall into the range outlined below, the technologist will promptly call the attending physician or physician on call personally, or the head nurse/triage nurse for the following life threatening laboratory findings. In addition, all critical values communicated verbally or by phone will be "read back to technologist and technologist will documented under LIS free text.

CHEMISTRY

Electrolytes	
Sodium (Na)	< 130 mEq/L or > 155 mEq/L
Potassium (K)	< 3.3 mEq/L or > 6.0 mEq/L
Calcium	< 7 mg/dl or > 12.0 mg/dl
Magnesium	< 1.0 mEq/L or > 2.5 mEq/L
Bicarbonate (CO ₂)	< 15 mEq/L or > 40 mEq/L
Phosphorous	< 1.5 mg/dl or > 20 mg/dl
Chlorides	< 80 mEq/L or > 115 mEq/L

METABOLITES

Glucose	< 50 mg/dl or > 400 mg/dl
BUN	> 50 mg/dl
Creatinine	> 4 mg/dl
Bilirubin-D	> 2.0 mg/dl
Bilirubin-T	> 8 mg/dl
Albumin	< 1.0 g/dl or > 9 g/dl

ENZYMES

AST	> 150 IU/L
ALT	> 200 IU/L
LDH	> 300 IU/L
Amylase	> 230 IU/L
Lipase	> 106 IU/L
CK	CPK isoenzymes to follow when:
Female	> 170 IU/L
Male	> 235 IU/L
GGT	> 1000 IU/L

HORMONES

T4 (Thyroxine)	< 1.9 ug/dl or > 20 ug/dl
TSH	<0.01 or >100 uIU/ml

REFERENCE LABORATORY TESTING

All reference laboratory testing considered by the reference lab to have a critical value will be called to physician or nurse as received in the clinical laboratory.

HEMATOLOGY

Hemoglobin	< 8.0 g/dl or > 20 g/dl
Hematocrit	< 24% or > 60%
WBC (leukocyte count)	< 3x10 ³ /ul or > 25x10 ³ /ul
Platelet count	< 50x10 ³ /ul or > 1000x10 ³ /ul

SEROLOGY

RPR (serum test for syphilis)	All positive results
TP-PA (Syphilis Confirmatory test)	All positive results

BACTERIOLOGY

AFB Smears / Cultures	All positive results
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