

Biochemistry critical results phoning limits

THESE GUIDELINES ARE BASED ON THE FIRST TIME AN ABNORMAL RESULT IS SEEN.

When results are already known to be abnormal, it may not be necessary to telephone them again. Repeat results may require telephoning if:

- There has been a significant change (worsening) in results.
- The last set of abnormal results are from a previous episode or admission.
- There has been a significant period of time between the original abnormal result and the current report.
- If location of patient has changed (e.g. an A&E patient that has been admitted; or previous results were in hospital and the current request is from Primary Care).

Test	Limits		Comment/actions
	At or below (\leq)	At or above (\geq)	
AKI alert		Stage 2 & 3	Do not phone if patient is on dialysis.
ALT (U/L)	-	500	
Amylase (U/L)	-	500	
AST (U/L)	-	500	
Bicarbonate (mmol/L)	10	-	
Calcium, adjusted (mmol/L)	1.80	3.40	
Carbamazepine (mg/L)	-	25	
CK (U/L)	-	5000 1000 (SLAM)	
Conj. bilirubin (μmol/L)	-	25 (<4 weeks)	
Cortisol (nmol/L)	50 (OP / IP) 100 (GP)	-	Do not phone if on dexamethasone suppression test or on steroid medication.
Creatinine (μmol/L)	-	200 if <16 years 354 if \geq 16 years	Do not phone renal clinic results unless there has been a significant change in results (not related to pre/post dialysis samples).
CRP (mg/L)	-	300	GP only. Phoned by Duty Biochemist next working day.

Test	Limits		Comment/actions
	At or below (\leq)	At or above (\geq)	
Digoxin ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	-	2.5	
FT3 (pmol/L)	-	10.0	GP only. Phoned by Duty Biochemist next working day.
FT4 (pmol/L)	5.4	40.0	GP only. Phoned by Duty Biochemist next working day.
Glucose (mmol/L)	2.5	15.0 if <16 years 25.0 if \geq 16 years 35.0 (known Diabetic)	
Lithium (mmol/L)	-	1.5	
Magnesium (mmol/L)	0.40	-	
Methotrexate ($\mu\text{mol/L}$)	-	ALL inpatient & referred samples	
Paracetamol (mg/L)	-	ALL detectable results	
Phenobarbitone (mg/L)	-	70	
Phenytoin (mg/L)	-	25	
Phosphate (mmol/L)	0.3	-	
Potassium (mmol/L)	2.5 3.0 (SLAM)	6.5	Haemolysed, delayed separation, EDTA contamination should have been excluded and comment added.
Prolactin (mIU/L)	-	10,000	GP only. Phoned by Duty Biochemist next working day.
Salicylate (mg/L)	-	300	
Sodium (mmol/L)	130 if <16 years 125 if \geq 16 years (GP/OP) 120 if \geq 16 years (IP)	155	
Theophylline (mg/L)		25	
Triglycerides (mmol/L)		20.0	GP / OP only
Troponin (ng/L)	-	64	Limit applicable to all patients
TSH (mIU/L)	-	50	GP only. Phoned by Duty Biochemist next working day.
Urea (mmol/L)	-	10 if <16 years 30 if \geq 16 years	Do not phone renal clinic results unless there has been a significant change in results (not related to pre/post dialysis samples).