

Physician MEMO

To | NICU and Emergency Physicians

From | Ken Jackson, MT (ASCP), Core Lab Manager

Date | June 24, 2011

Re | NICU Critical Hemoglobin Results Notification

Practice Alert

A safety concern regarding critical result notification on neonates between the ages of 1 month- 9 months has been identified. The current critical value for 1 month- 9 month hemoglobin level is <7 gm/dL, and during the current admission, only the first critical value is called to the nursing unit. Critical values on subsequent samples are footnoted in the computer with "Critical value noted. Value is consistent with previously reported and called value". Effective June 27, 2011, the hemoglobin critical for infants > 1 month – 9 month will be changed from < 7 gm/dL to < 9 gm/dL. Additionally, all critical hemoglobins of < 9 gm/dL for 0 – 9 month infants will be called for all samples. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Jackson, MT (ASCP), Core Lab Manager at 336-718-3714.

	Hemoglobin Result	CALL	DO NOT CALL	Comments
ADULTS (> 9 months)	< 7 gm/dL			
• Initial sample		X		
• Subsequent samples during current admission			X	Footnote: "Critical Value noted. Value is consistent with previously reported and called value."
NEONATES				
0-1 month				
• Initial sample	< 13 gm/dL	X		
• Subsequent samples during current admission	≥ 9 and < 13 gm/dL		X	Footnote: "Critical Value noted. Value is consistent with previously reported and called value."
• Subsequent samples during current admission	< 9 gm/dL	X		
>1 month - 9 months				
• Initial sample	< 9 gm/dL	X		
• Subsequent samples during current admission	< 9 gm/dL	X		