***Critical Values***

Critical values and policies pertaining to these values are evaluated by the Laboratory Medical Director and brought to the Hospital Medical Executive Staff for comment and approval. For critical values that require physician notification, please see specific test listing.

All critical values for inpatients will be called to the RN or physician immediately, or within 10 minutes from the time the result is verified.

STAT and critical values are called on outpatients within an hour of completion. When the physician or their office cannot be contacted, 4 additional (5 total) attempts will be made. If the physician still cannot be contacted, the results will be faxed to the physician’s office and the pathologist on call notified.

Please see nursing policy “CRITICAL VALUES/CRITICAL TEST” policy in the “Clinical Manual and Laboratory Critical Values Documentation and Reporting” policies for more details.