

<b>Policy #:</b>	305 (PLH-305-08)	<b>Effective Date:</b>	NA	<b>Reviewed Date:</b>	3/31/2010
<b>Subject:</b>	CRITICAL LABORATORY VALUE REPORTING AND CRITICAL TESTS				
<b>Approved by:</b> Laboratory Executive Director, Ed Hughes (electronic signature)					
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## CRITICAL LABORATORY VALUE REPORTING

Lab results that define a pathophysiological state at such variance with normal as to be life-threatening unless something is done promptly, and for which some corrective action could be taken are considered to be "critical lab values".

Upon resulting a critical lab value, the lab sends a copy of the critical value (or the entire panel if one was ordered) to the patient's nursing station immediately by FAX, pneumatic tube system, or Meditech printer. The lab then telephones a licensed caregiver to convey where to look for the patient's critical value (FAX, tube, or printer). Laboratory personnel will document the name and title of the person receiving notification as well as the date and time in LIS. Verbal results are given to the physician or licensed caregiver. If either of these is unavailable results may be given to the authorized agent of the licensed caregiver as stated in Goal 2 of the Joint Commissions Perspectives on Patient Safety Goals. If a verbal report is given, the lab will document who the result was given to and they will be asked to read the result back to the lab to confirm communication.

The laboratory makes these notifications immediately upon verification of results. Historically a licensed caregiver is notified within 10 minutes of acceptable result verification for inpatient critical values and outpatient critical values within 30 minutes.

Note: For Outreach and Outpatients critical values, it is acceptable for the notification to be given to an answering service if the immediate caregiver is not available.