

<b>Policy #:</b>	305 (PLH-305-12)	<b>Effective Date:</b>	9/30/2004	<b>Reviewed Date:</b>	8/1/2016
<b>Subject:</b>	CRITICAL LABORATORY VALUE REPORTING AND CRITICAL TESTS				
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## CRITICAL LABORATORY VALUE REPORTING

Lab results that define a pathophysiological state such as a variance from 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 to the patient's licensed care giver by FAX, pneumatic tube system, or laboratory printer. The lab also notifies the 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 licensed caregiver receiving the notification as well as the date and time in LIS. Verbal results are given to the physician or licensed caregiver. 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. If either the physician or licensed caregiver 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.

The performing laboratory makes these notifications immediately upon verification of results to the licensed caregiver. The verifying tech is responsible for notifying the licensed caregiver for Inpatient and Outpatient criticals. The Call Center staff can be utilized to notify Outreach Client criticals. Outreach Client criticals are to be given to the licensed care giver directly and not the MCL staff on site.

Microbiology Critical Value notification is made to the physician or licensed caregiver within 2 hours of acceptable result verification for inpatient and ED critical values.

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. Follow up to confirm notification to the licensed caregiver, from the answering service, should be made and documented.

Violation of policy may result in disciplinary action.