



**ST. JOSEPH CLINICAL LABORATORY**

**360 Broadway  
Bangor, Me 04401**

**CRITICAL VALUES**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines for reporting life threatening lab results in a timely manor.

**1.0 PROCEDURE:**

1.1 Any value which falls in the critical value range according to the Critical Value List will be handled in the following manner.

**1.1.1 Inpatients:**

1.1.1.1 The Technologist will notify the patient's nurse on the unit of the results.

1.1.1.3 It will be the responsibility of the patient's nurse to notify the physician of the result.

**1.1.2 Outpatients:**

1.1.2.1 The Technologist will notify the ordering provider, the on call provider in the practice, or a clinical staff member in the ordering providers practice.

1.1.2.2 If no one in section 1.1.2.1 can be reached, the Technologist will notify the patient's primary care provider (if different than above), or the on call or clinical staff member in the primary care provider's practice.

1.1.2.3 In the event none of the above individuals can be reached, the Technologist will contact an ED physician.

1.1.2.3.1 The expectation for Emergency Department provider follow up of a non-ED patient's critical laboratory results is as follows:

1.1.2.3.1.1 The Emergency Department provider will determine the critical laboratory result's significance.

1.1.2.3.1.2 When **emergent or urgent intervention is indicated**: The Emergency Department provider should attempt to contact the patient, and provide direction on further care required.

1.1.2.3.1.3 When **no immediate intervention is necessary**: The Technologist will resume critical laboratory follow up process the next business day.

1.1.2.3.2 The Technologist will document this follow up in the laboratory documentation system.

1.1.2.3.3 All Emergency Department critical laboratory value referrals shall be reported to the Laboratory Director for review of root cause.

### **3.0 NOTES:**

3.1 All critical results called will be read back to the Technologist.

3.2 The Technologist will document in the LIS system the first and last name of the person contacted, the date and time the call was made, their initials, and that the read back was performed. (See LIS Callback Procedure).

3.3 All critical values needing to be confirmed can be done so by repeat testing with the same sample, with a new specimen, or both.