

Department of Biochemistry

FOR EXTERNAL USERS INFORMATION ONLY: Results that may be reported by telephone

The following limits, based on guidance from the Royal College of Pathologists¹, identify test results that may be reported by telephone. These values are a **guideline** only; decisions to telephone results are made on a **case-by-case basis** by qualified members of staff.

- Clinically urgent results will be telephoned out of hours (Mon-Fri 17:30-09:00, Sat & Sun).
 - Other results will be telephoned the next working day (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:30).
 - Results consistently outside these limits may not be phoned unless deemed clinically relevant.
1. The communication of critical and unexpected pathology results, RCPATH, July 2016.

ANALYTE	LESS THAN	MORE THAN
Alcohol		>400 mg/dL (unless Post Mortem)
ALT		>600 U/L
Ammonia		>100 µmol/L
Amylase		>450 U/L
AST		>600 U/L
Bicarbonate	<10 mmol/L (if acidotic)	
Bilirubin		>300 µmol/L (if <1 month old)
NT-ProBNP		>2000 (GPs only)
Calcium (adjusted)	<1.8 mmol/L	>3.5 mmol/L
CK		>5000 U/L
Cortisol	<50 nmol/L (unless O/N DST)	
Creatinine		>354 µmol/L Or >50% change in 48h >200 µmol/L (<16 years old)
CRP		>300 mg/L
CSF glucose	<2.0 mmol/L	
CSF xanthochromia		All SAH positive results
FT4		>40 pmol/L
Glucose	<2.5 mmol/L	>30 mmol/L (DM known) >25 mmol/L (DM not known) >15 mmol/L (<16 year old)
Iron		>70 µmol/L
Lactate		>5 mmol/L
Mg	<0.4 mmol/L	>3.0 mmol/L
PBG screen		All positive results
Phosphate	<0.3 mmol/L	>4 mmol/L
Potassium	<2.5 mmol/L	>6.5 mmol/L
PIIINP		>13 mg/L
Sodium	<120 mmol/L	>160 mmol/L
Triglycerides		>20 mmol/L
TSH		>150 mU/L
Urea		>30 mmol/L >10 mmol/L (<16 year old)
24 hour urine protein		>2g/24 hours (pregnancy only)
Vitamin D		>200 nmol/L
DRUGS		MORE THAN
Carbamazepine		>15 mg/L
Cyclosporin		>400 ng/mL
Digoxin		>2.5 µg/L
Lithium		>1.5 mmol/L
Paracetamol		All detectable results
Phenobarbitone		>40 mg/L
Phenytoin		>25 mg/L
Salicylates		>300 mg/L
Tacrolimus		>25 ng/mL
Theophylline		>25 mg/L, or >15 mg/mL if <1 month old
Valproate		>100 mg/L