



Panic (Critical) Values

LabCorp defines critical (panic) results as laboratory test results that exceed established limit(s) (high or low) as defined by the laboratory for certain analytes as listed in the “Critical (Panic) Limits.” Critical results are considered life threatening and require immediate notification of the physician, the physician’s representative, the ordering entity, or other clinical personnel responsible for the patient’s care. Critical results may also be referred to as “panic” values.

Critical results are communicated to the physician, the physician’s representative, the ordering entity or other clinical personnel responsible for patient care once secondary causes have been ruled out, the result has been verified, and the patient’s result has been entered into the laboratory computer system.

Note that *abnormal results* are **not** considered Critical Values. Results that are outside the laboratory’s established reference interval may be considered abnormal. “Abnormal” and “critical” are not to be used interchangeably.

Test Name	Age	Reference Interval	Default call Low <	Default call High >
Bilirubin, Total, Adult		0.0 – 1.2 mg/dL		17.0 mg/dL
Bilirubin, Total, Neonatal	Age Specific			17.0 mg/dL
Calcium	M/F: 18-59 years	8.7 – 10.2 mg/dL	7.0 mg/dL	13.0 mg/dL
	M: 60 years and older	8.6 – 10.2 mg/dL		
	F: 60 Years and older	8.6 – 10.3 mg/dL		
Creatine Kinase, MB		M: 0.0 – 10.4 ng/mL		10.4 ng/mL
		F: 0.0 – 5.3 ng/mL		5.3 ng/mL
Creatine Kinase, Total		M: 24 – 204 U/L		10,000U/L
		F: 24 – 173 U/L		
Glucose		65 – 99 mg/dL	40 mg/dL	500 mg/dL
Potassium		3.5 – 5.2 mmol/L	2.5 mmol/L	6.5 mmol/L
Sodium		134 – 144 mmol/L	120 mmol/L	160 mmol/L
Troponin I		0.00 – 0.04 ng/mL		0.04 ng/mL
Troponin T		<0.011 ng/mL		0.010 ng/mL
ADAMTS13 Activity		>66.8%	30%	
Fibrinogen Activity	17 years and older	193 – 507 mg/dL	80 mg/dL	999 mg/dL
Fibrinogen Antigen		180 – 350 mg/dL	80 mg/dL	999 mg/dL
Hematocrit	M: 13 years and older	37.5 – 51.0 %	18.1%	64.4%
	F: 13 years and older	34.0 – 46.6 %		
Hemoglobin	M: 15 years and older	13 – 17.7 g/dL	6.1 g/dL	21.4 g/dL
	F: 15 years and older	11.1 – 15.9 g/dL		
INR	1 month and older	0.9 – 1.2		4.9
aPTT	18 years and older	24 – 33 sec		89 sec
Neutrophils, absolute	13 years and older	1.4 – 7.0 × 10 ³ /μL	0.5 × 10 ³ /μL	999 × 10 ³ /μL

Test Name	Age	Reference Interval	Default call Low <	Default call High >
Platelets	13 years and older	150 – 450 × 10 ³ /μL	21 × 10 ³ /μL	999 × 10 ³ /μL
WBC	13 years and older	3.4 – 10.8 × 10 ³ /μL	1.1 × 10 ³ /μL	49.9 × 10 ³ /μL
Amitriptyline + Nortriptyline Metabolite		12 – 250 ng/mL		1,000 ng/mL
Carbamazepine		4.0 – 12.0 μg/mL		20.0 μg/mL
Digoxin		0.5 – 0.9 ng/mL		2.5 ng/mL
Ethosuximide		40 – 100 μg/mL		200 μg/mL
Lithium		0.6 – 1.2 mmol/L		1.5 mmol/L
Primidone		5.0 – 12.0 μg/mL		24.0 μg/mL
Phenobarbital		15 – 40 μg/mL		60 μg/mL
Phenytoin	4 months and older	10.0 – 20.0 μg/mL		40.0 μg/mL
Theophylline	2 months and older	10.0 – 20.0 μg/mL		25.0 μg/mL
Valproic Acid		50 – 100 μg/mL		200 μg/mL
Vancomycin, Peak		25.0 – 40.0 μg/mL		80.0 μg/mL
Vancomycin, Trough		10.0 – 15.0 μg/mL		80.0 μg/mL
Vancomycin, Random		5.0 – 40.0 μg/mL		80.0 μg/mL

Qualitative or Non Numeric Panic Values

- Any positive gram stain, fungal stain, cryptococcal antigen or positive culture result on CSF
- Any positive gram stain or culture result from a blood culture
- Any positive gram stain or fungal stain from a normally sterile body fluid specimen
- Any positive culture from a normally sterile body fluid specimen
- Any seasonal (Nov 1 – April 30) STAT RSV EIA result
- Definitive identification of any culture isolate considered potentially life-threatening or designated as a select agent, ie, Brucella, Francisella
- Positive Shiga toxin EIA result from a patient <18 or >62 years old
- Any intracellular or extracellular blood parasite
- For Hematology stained slides, any neutrophils with phagocytosed (intracellular) microorganisms (bacteria, yeast, etc.) found in a normally sterile body fluid, ie, CSF, synovial, serous, amniotic, and/or blood specimen (Reported when present in neutrophils only)
- Any “No Clot Detected” result for prothrombin time or activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT)
- LD Isoenzyme Interpretation – The LDH isoenzyme pattern demonstrates LD1 greater than LD2
- Any positive HSV result on CSF



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