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## Critical Values

### I. PURPOSE

To define a policy for handling critical values.

### II. PRINCIPLE

Critical values in the blood bank reflect significant unexpected test results or other unusual events that could be life-threatening if treatment is not instituted immediately. These values must be quickly communicated to the caregiver.

### III. POLICY

It is the policy of Piedmont Athens Regional Laboratory that critical values will be promptly called to the patient's licensed caregiver who will then communicate the results to the physician.

### IV. PROCEDURE

1. Critical Values/Situations in the blood bank:

- Acute hemolysis noted during a transfusion reaction investigation
- Incompatibility of an emergency issued red blood cell unit
- Positive DAT on a neonate
- Notification from supplier of a bacterially contaminated product
- Positive antibody screen that will result in a delay of compatible blood products for transfusion

- Products prepared necessitating an Exceptional Release of Blood Products form
  - For Hemolytic Disease of Fetus and Newborn (HDFN) monitoring critical titer for Anti-D is  $\geq 16$  and Anti- K is  $\geq 8$ .
2. Phone the appropriate nursing unit and ask to speak to the licensed caregiver for the patient (ex. RN).
  3. Inform the caregiver that you are calling with a RAV critical result and request his/her name and title.
  4. Report the critical result(s) and request read back of the result.
  5. Add a comment in HCLL to the test with a critical result.
    - On the test worksheet click comment from the bottom of the form.
    - Add comment RAV: Critical Results Read Back and Verified
    - Add a free text comment to document the name/title of caregiver and the date/time the critical was called. (ex. B. Smith, RN 10/13/17 @ 0945)
    - Set the comment to be external by entering E in the I/E field.
    - Verify, Save, and Close.

## V. REFERENCES

- Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, Bethesda, MD, AABB, Current edition.
- Technical Manual, Bethesda, MD, AABB, Current edition.
- WellSky Transfusion Help. Medware., Client Version 2021.3.0.8.

### All Revision Dates

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### Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
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Technical Supervisor	Daniel Tench: MD	3/8/2023
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