

Tufts Medicine Care at Home Parent, Inc.

SUBJECT: REPORTING CRITICAL & MEDICATION DOSE DEPENDENT TEST RESULTS

PURPOSE: To assure critically abnormal test results and medication dose dependent values (critical or routine) are communicated in a timely manner to the patient's physician.

DEFINITION:

Critical values are test results that indicate a condition likely to require prompt clinical intervention.

POLICY:

Critical values including point of care PT/INR, oxygen saturation and blood glucose are to be reported to the ordering physician by either the licensed clinician responsible for the patient's care or the laboratory performing the specified test(s).

- Medication dose dependent values must be reported to infusion pharmacy and physician.

PROCEDURE:

1. When a test is performed by organization clinical staff member, the clinician or designee will report the results of the test immediately to the ordering physician when the results fall outside of the ordered parameters or deemed to be a critical value for the patient.
2. The clinician or designee will document in the patient record the results of the lab test, the date the lab test was performed and the date the lab value was reported to the ordering physician.
3. If medication dosing is dependent on test results (critical or non-critical), such as PT/INR, IV drug level (Vancomycin) the patient/caregiver is instructed to hold the next dose of medication until they receive further instruction from the Agency clinician or the physician. The clinician will make every attempt to obtain test results, report these results to the physician, obtain orders, call patient/caregiver with further instructions and document all information in the EMR as appropriate.
4. If the results or the physician's orders are not available before the end of the clinician's shift, the clinician will call the physician's office and request that they (the physician or office staff) call the patient with the results and any medication changes. The clinician (or designee) will contact the physician's office the next business day to confirm the results and medication changes, if any, and the date the next lab is due.
5. Test results will be reported per physician orders (e.g. – physician request to report blood glucose on a weekly basis).

Reference: *The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals – Anticoagulation Therapy*

Responsibility: Clinicians

Distribution: Leadership

Company Name Change Effective 6/02/2022

CEO Signature:	____/____/____ Date
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