

# Clinical Laboratory Testing Update

## Critical Value Change – Hemoglobin for Ambulatory Patients

**Notification Date:** 01/19/2024

**Effective Date:** 01/23/2024

**Explanation:** Effective January 23rd, the Hemoglobin critical value for ambulatory patient testing performed at Pathology Laboratory at both the Main Campus and North Ankeny Medical Park will change to  $\leq 7.0$  g/dL for ages  $\geq 31$  days. This change is to allow for quicker clinical response to ambulatory patients with low/unexpected hemoglobin results through critical value notification by laboratory staff to the ambulatory provider.

Hemoglobin	Previous	New
31 days – 18 years	$\leq 7.0$ g/dL	$\leq 7.0$ g/dL
$\geq 19$ years	$< 6.0$ g/dL	$\leq 7.0$ g/dL

**Procedural Note:** This change applies only for testing performed at Pathology Laboratory from ambulatory locations. If a patient is collected at the Downtown Draw Station to be performed STAT at Iowa Methodist, the critical value used will be the Methodist values. See [Laboratory Critical Values Policy](#)

Questions: Please contact the Clinical Laboratory

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