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Critical Alerts Values for Phoning in Haematology

The following criteria are for first presentation only unless otherwise indicated

Parameter	Result	Comments	Urgency
Haematology			
HB	<8 g/dl		B
	<12g/dL	For neonate (0-4weeks)	B
Platelets	<50x10 ⁹ /L	With film check	B
WBC	>30.0 x10 ⁹ /L		A
Neutrophils	<1.0x10 ⁹ /L		A
IM Screen	All Positives		B
Sickle Screen	Positives	When the patient is going to theatre or has a high likelihood of going to theatre	B
Malaria	All Positives	Provide parasitaemia count if P.falciparum is detected	A
Coagulation			
I.N.R.	> 5.0		A
P.T.	> 25 secs	Not on anticoagulants	B
A.P.T.T.	> 45 secs	Not on anticoagulants	B
Fibrinogen	<1.0 g/l	All	A
Miscellaneous			
Blood Films	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Platelet Count Review • The presence of Schistocytes with a falling or low Platelet Count. • Platelet clumping seen on Blood Films with a suspicion of Low Platelet Count to obtain urgent repeat sample. • Presence of blasts 		A
In addition to the above all requests for telephoned results are responded to as soon as possible.			B

Urgency Category A: results communicated within 2 hours.

Urgency Category B: results communicated within 24 hours, preferably on the same working day.

The critical alert values are only applicable to the first presentation of the results. The urgency category sets a limit on the expected time frame for the results to be communicated.

RECORD THE DETAILS OF THE COMMUNICATION OR PHONING OF RESULTS AS DETAILED IN THE PROCEDURE “PROCEDURE FOR THE REVIEW AND RELEASE OF REPORTS TO USERS” (H/LP/027)

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