**Pediatric Bilirubin- Critical Value**

**Effective July 7th, 2020**

The Salem Health Laboratory critical high parameter for blood Total Bilirubin in patients <1 month old is currently set at greater than 20 mg/dL. This is the value at which the lab will notify the provider with a direct phone call. This critical value is changing to greater than, or equal to 15 mg/dL.

* **Summary of Change:**
  + **Critical high Total Bilirubin value is changing from >20 mg/dL to ≥ 15 mg/dL for patients < 1 month old.**

**At what level do our peers consider Total Bilirubin critical?**

* Legacy Health: >14.9 mg/dL (all ages)
* OHSU: ≥ 15 mg/dL (Neonates only)
* ARUP: >15 mg/dL (all ages)

**What does this mean to our providers?**

This change will cause the lab to notify providers of elevated Total Bilirubin values at lower levels than before.

**Clinical Significance:**

Jaundice occurs in most newborn infants. Most Jaundice is benign, but because of the potential toxicity of bilirubin, newborn infants must be monitored to identify those who might develop severe hyperbilirubinemia and, in rare cases, acute bilirubin encephalopathy or kernicterus.

References:

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/124/4/1193?sso=1&sso_redirect_count=3&nfstatus=402&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR%3A+Local+token+is+not+valid>

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/114/1/297>

<https://www.ohsu.edu/lab-services/bilirubin-total>

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