**Sodium (Na) - Critical Value**

**Effective July 7th, 2020**

The Salem Health Laboratory critical low parameter for blood Sodium in patients >1 month old is currently set at less than 115 mmol/L. This is the value at which the lab will notify the provider with a direct phone call. This critical value is changing to less than 120 mmol/L.

* **Summary of Change:**
  + **Critical low Sodium value will changing from <115 mmol/L to < 120 mmol/L for patients > 1 month old.**

**At what level do our peers consider Sodium critical?**

* Legacy Health: <121 or >159 mmol/L (for ages ≥12 yrs.)
* ARUP: <120 or >160 mmol/L (no age specification)
* OHSU: ≥160 mmol/L (no age specification, or critical low level)

**What will this change mean for our providers?**

This change will cause the lab to notify providers of low Sodium values at a higher level than before in patients >1 month of age. The critical Sodium value for pediatric patients will not be changing.

**Clinical Significance:**

Sodium plays a key role in the body. It helps maintain normal blood pressure, supports the work of nerves and muscles, and regulates the body’s fluid balance. A sodium level in the blood that is too low is dangerous. Raising the low critical Sodium level, will lead to quicker response, treatment, and have a positive impact on patient care.

References:

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hyponatremia/symptoms-causes/syc-20373711>

<https://www.ohsu.edu/lab-services/sodium-plasma>

<https://www.aruplab.com/testing/resources/values>

<https://www.legacyhealth.org/for-health-professionals/refer-a-patient/laboratory-services/critical-values-and-reference-ranges.aspx>

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