

## TELEPHONING LIMITS – OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS

Note: these telephoning limits only apply to outpatients and GP patients, outside normal working ‘surgery’ hours.

For inpatients, please refer to the “telephoning limits – within hours” table.

Analyte	Phone if ≤	Phone if ≥	Comments
Adjusted calcium (mmol/L)	1.80	3.50**	** If adjusted calcium is not available because of a low albumin, telephone results based on the unadjusted calcium result using the same telephoning limits
AKI alert	New stage 1		Primary care only: phone next day (within 24 hrs) only if K ≥ 6.0
	New stage 2 or 3		GP stage 2 can be phoned next day (within 24 hrs)
ALT (U/L)	-	600	-
Ammonia (µmol/L)	-	100*	*Always phone results (new and repeats)
Amylase (U/L)	-	400	-
AST (U/L)	-	600	-
Carbamazepine (mg/L)	-	25	-
CK (U/L)	-	5000	-
Cortisol (nmol/L)	50	-	Can be phoned next day (within 24 hrs) to primary care Do not phone if part of a dexamethasone suppression test
Cortisol (nmol/L) – SST at 30 min	250	-	
Creatinine (µmol/L)	-	300 (≥200 if <16 yrs)	-
CRP (mg/L)	-	300	Primary care only
Digoxin (µg/L)	-	2.5	Phone next day (within 24 hrs) unless K<3.0 or suspected overdose.
Glucose (mmol/L)	2.5	25.0 (≥15 if <16 yrs)	-
Lipase (U/L)	-	300	-
Lithium (mmol/L)	-	1.0*	*Only phone results >1.0
Magnesium (mmol/L)	0.40	-	-
Phenobarbitone (mg/L)	-	70	-
Phenytoin (mg/L)	-	25	-
Phosphate (mmol/L)	0.30	-	-
Potassium (mmol/L)	2.5	6.5	Unless the request states pre-dialysis, potassium results ≥ 6.0 must be phoned on renal patients including those with no clinical details from any location.
Salicylate (mg/L)	-	300	-
Sodium (mmol/L)	120 (130 if <16 yrs)	160	-
Theophylline (mg/L)	-	25	-
Troponin T (ng/L)	-	12	GP only
Urea (mmol/L)	-	30 (≥10 if <16 yrs) 40.0 (FLCOP, FPDOP)	-

Consideration should be given to whether the abnormal result is an isolated event or is part of an improving trend, in which case it may not be necessary to phone the result.

When phoning results to the deputising service ensure a call number is taken and recorded in APEX – see full SOP for procedure

### **CRITICAL LIMITS**

Levels of some analytes outside certain values may cause a direct **immediate** and **significant** risk to the patient. Priority should therefore be given to transmitting these results.

- Potassium < 2.2 mmol/L                      Potassium > 6.5 mmol/L (except in neonates)
- Sodium < 120 mmol/L                        Sodium > 155 mmol/L
- Calcium\*\* < 1.8 mmol/L                      Calcium\*\* > 3.5 mmol/L