

## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** December 11, 2024

**TO:** All clinicians who use Island Health laboratory services

**FROM:** Dr Danielle Meunier, Medical Lead, Hematology  
Department of Laboratory Medicine, Pathology and Medical Genetics

**RE:** Critical Values for Hematology Laboratory Parameters

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Please be advised, the critical values for hematology laboratory parameters have been revised to reflect recommendations from the most recent publications in this area. Key clinical stakeholders were consulted during the review process to ensure patient safety is maintained while minimizing the number of required phone calls to clinicians. Effective December 11, 2024, laboratory staff will immediately phone critical results to the ordering provider based on the below values. Other values previously defined as critical will no longer fall into this category.

In addition, consecutive critical Platelet, WBC or Neutrophil results within 7 days will no longer be phoned to ordering providers.

Parameter	New Critical Value
Hemoglobin low	< 60 g/L if age >1 month < 90 g/L if age <1 month
Hemoglobin high	> 239 g/L if age >1 month > 250 g/L if age <1 month
WBC low	< 0.6 x10 <sup>9</sup> /L
WBC high	≥ 100 x10 <sup>9</sup> /L
Neutrophils	< 0.6 x10 <sup>9</sup> /L
Platelets	< 20 x10 <sup>9</sup> /L

NOTE: Per CPSBC requirements, all providers must be available to receive critical result phone calls from the lab 24/7 or have appropriate coverage in place.

Any major concerns about these changes may be directed to Dr. Danielle Meunier, Medical Lead for Laboratory Hematology [Danielle.Meunier@islandhealth.ca](mailto:Danielle.Meunier@islandhealth.ca).