



MAYO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL PATHOLOGY LABORATORY  
BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Document Identification

BT/LI/073

Edition

5

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## Critical Alerts Values for Communication to Clinicians

Critical alert values are laboratory results that indicate a possible clinically significant situation for the patient. Alert the clinician to the critical alert value. Record the details of the communication to the clinician as detailed below, dependant on the type of critical alert.

### Critical Alerts Associated with Test Results

Critical alerts are documented on either the hardcopy Critical Alert Report Form BT/LF/135 or the LIS Telephone Log associated with the relevant SID number. Call back/ verification of results must be performed to ensure accuracy of communication.

#### **1. FMH Rh D negative woman**

If an FMH of **4ml or greater** is detected the clinician should be notified and alerted to the possible need for additional anti-D immunoglobulin prior to discharge and /or to the requirement for a follow-up maternal sample for KBT to check for clearance of fetal cells.

#### **2. FMH RhD positive woman (Trauma)**

If greater than 2ml fetal cells is detected the clinician should be notified.

#### **3. DAT (Direct Antiglobulin Test)**

A **Positive DAT** result on a newborn sample should be phoned to the relevant ward/ clinician. This does not include a DAT positive on newborns where anti-D immunoglobulin has been transfused to the mother. However, if a DAT positive result is suspected of being due to ABO incompatibility (Mother Group O, Baby group A or B) the DAT should be phoned, regardless of Anti-D immunoglobulin administration.

### Critical Alerts associated with Blood Stocks and Availability

If there is difficulty in providing crossmatched compatible blood for a patient due to the presence of red cell antibodies

or

Where there is a delay in providing blood/components/ blood products to a reduced supply, the clinician will also be contacted. Refer to BT/LI/072, *Turnaround Times for Blood Transfusion Tests and Blood Products*.

### Miscellaneous Critical Alerts

#### **Rejected Samples or Samples requiring Amendment prior to Processing**

The rejection of a sample must be communicated to the requesting doctor or a member of staff who is responsible for his/her care. The communication of these Critical Alerts are documented on HV/MF/033 and/or the hardcopy or LIS Telephone Log.

#### **Transfusion Reaction Investigations**

The result of **all** transfusion reactions must be communicated to clinical staff as soon as results become available.

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*Approval documented on Q-Pulse*

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