

Potassium – Update to Critical Result Threshold

Effective 9:00am on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, the upper critical result threshold for serum potassium will change to > 5.9 mmol/L to align with current critical practice and EPIC Hyperkalemia Order Panel.

Patient Age > 3 months	
Old Critical Threshold	New Critical Threshold
> 6.1 mmol/L	> 5.9 mmol/L

BACKGROUND:

The current Hyperkalemia Order Panel in Epic references a serum potassium level of greater than 5.9 mmol/L (K > 5.9 mmol/L) as the threshold for severe hyperkalemia, at which urgent treatment for hyperkalemia should be initiated.

A multispecialty team (Emergency Medicine, Nephrology, Critical Care, and Internal Medicine) recently collaborated to update the guidelines for treatment of hyperkalemia at VCU Medical Center. These guidelines are intended to provide guidance to providers in the Emergency Department and inpatient progressive care units. The guidelines reflect the treatment of hyperkalemia that is outlined in the Adult Hyperkalemia Order Panel.

For questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at (804) 828-7284 or Dr. Lorin Bachmann at Lorin.Bachmann@vcuhealth.org.