



# LAB ALERT

## THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

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### Change in Hemoglobin/Hematocrit Critical Value Reporting

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**Effective Date:** February 1, 2016      **Performing Department:** Automated Lab / Hematology

It is the policy of the South Bend Medical Foundation Laboratories to notify the ordering physician of any laboratory results which are so significantly outside the normal reference range that they likely indicate some intervention is necessary to avert potential patient morbidity. Regulations from agencies and accreditors such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP; GEN.20316, COM.30000) mandate that laboratories develop and implement an alert system for such results, which are designated as critical values.

Historically, a low hemoglobin level of 8g/dL was set as a critical value in the SBMF system. However, in response to information from many sources, including recent transfusion medicine literature, the **critical value for hemoglobin will be reset to 7g/dL. A corresponding hematocrit of 21% will also become a critical value.** Pediatric age-specific values will not be impacted by this change.

**This change will take effect on February 1, 2016 and will impact the entire SBMF Laboratory System.**

### THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

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.....Lq { eg "N0"Uko r uqp."M.D. • *Medical Director*