



Memorandum - Core #195

To: UNC Health Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians,
Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and
Supervisors

From: *HWH* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD; Medical Director
McLendon Clinical Laboratories and
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SWC Steven W. Cotten, PhD; Director of Automated Chemistry
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NKS Nichole Korpi-Steiner, PhD; Medical Director
UNC Medical Center Point of Care Testing

Date: February 22, 2023

Subject: Raising the sodium critical value

Effective March 1st 2023, the laboratory will raise the sodium critical threshold to <120 mmol/L. The change comes based on provider feedback and review of other hospital systems. The change applies to all testing (central lab, ambulatory labs and point of care). It is important to note that any abnormal sodium result is clinically important and medical intervention should not rely solely upon critical value notification from the laboratory. The upper critical value of >155 mmol/L for sodium will not change.

	Current Critical Threshold	New Critical Threshold
Sodium mmol/L	<115	<120

For questions please contact:

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