

Table 14.
Framework for Reporting Changes in Vital Signs or Laboratory Values to a Practitioner

>greater than, <less than

| Acute Sign/Laboratory Test | Report Immediately | Report on Next Office Day |
|---|--|--|
| Vital Signs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systolic BP >210 mmHg, <90 mmHg Diastolic BP >115 mmHg Resting pulse >130 bpm, <55* bpm, or >110 bpm and patient has dyspnea or palpitations Respirations >28, <10*/minute Oral (electronic thermometer) temperature >101°F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diastolic BP routinely > 90 mmHg Resting pulse > 120 bpm on repeat exam |
| Weight loss | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New onset of anorexia with or without weight loss 5% or more within 30 days 10% or more within 6 months |
| Complete blood count | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBC >12,000* Hemoglobin (Hb) <8* Hematocrit < 24* Platelets < 50,000* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBC > 10,000 without symptoms or fever |
| Chemistry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood/urea/nitrogen (BUN) >60 mg/dL* Calcium (Ca) >12.5 mg/dL Potassium (K) <3.0, >6.0 mg/dL Sodium (Na) <125, >155 mg/dL Blood glucose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >300 mg/dL in diabetic patient not using sliding-scale insulin >430 mg/dL (or machine registers high) in diabetic patient using sliding-scale insulin <70 mg/dL in diabetic patient <50 mg/dL in nondiabetic patient | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glucose consistently >200 mg/dL Hb A1c (any value) Albumin (any value) Bilirubin (any value) Cholesterol (any value) Triglycerides (any value) Other chemistry values |
| Drug levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels <i>above</i> therapeutic range of <i>any</i> drug (hold next dose) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any therapeutic or low level, unless resident shows evidence of possible adverse drug reaction despite therapeutic or low result |
| Prothrombin time (PT) International normalized ratio (INR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INR >6 IUs (hold warfarin) PT (in seconds) 3x control (hold warfarin) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INR 3-6 IUs (hold warfarin) PT (in seconds) 2x control (hold warfarin) |
| Urinalysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal result in patient with signs and symptoms possibly related to urinary tract infection or urosepsis (e.g., fever, burning sensation, pain, altered mental status) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal result in patient with no signs or symptoms |
| Urine culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >100,000 colony count with symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any colony count, no symptoms |
| X-ray | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or unsuspected finding (e.g., fracture, pneumonia, CHF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old or long-standing finding, no change |

*Unless values are consistently at this level and practitioner is aware of this.

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