



**To:** UCM Medical Staff, House staff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

**From:** Melissa S Pessin, MD, PhD  
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Medical Director of Hyde Park Clinical Laboratories and Alternative Site Testing

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**Date:** 1/6/2025

**Subject: Critical Potassium Threshold Change**

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**Effective Date:** 1/8/2025

**Laboratory Sections:** Chemistry and Point-of-Care Testing

**Summary:**

Effective 1/8/2024, the threshold for critically high serum, plasma, and whole blood potassium levels will be decreased from >6.2 mmol/L to  $\geq 6.0$  mmol/L.

The purpose of this change is to provide timely warning levels for critical potassium concentrations to allow rapid treatment of hyperkalemic patients and additional care where appropriate.

The anticipated impact is a slight to modest increase in critical potassium notifications to particular service areas that have been informed and are in agreement with this change.

**Questions:**

If there are any questions regarding this change, please contact:

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