

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIO PULMONARY POLICY MANUAL  
REPORTING CRITICAL ARTERIAL BLOOD GAS VALUES**

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**Effective Date: July 2009**  
**Cross Referenced: PC07**  
**Reviewed Date: 10/15**  
**Revised Date: 06/12**

**Policy No: 4A.005**  
**Origin: Cardio Pulmonary**  
**Authority: Cardio/Pulmonary Manager**  
**Page: 1 of 1**

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**Purpose:** To report any “critical” arterial blood gas values to the appropriate medical personnel.

**Procedure:** A critical value is a result which represents a pathophysiologic state at such variance with normal as to be life threatening unless some action is taken. All critical values must be reported immediately.

1. Arterial blood gas sample analyzed by Respiratory Care Practitioner.
2. Critical values obtained (as recognized by the lab system) they will be flagged by double arrows and highlighted in red.
3. Notify RN or MD of critical value, either by hand delivering the results or by phone using the read back and verified protocol.
4. Document in Cerner under remarks, whom you reported the critical values to. Using the person’s name.
5. Normal values and critical values are posted in the ABG lab.

**NORMAL VALUES**

**PH 7.35-7.45**  
**PCO2 35-45**  
**P02 80-100**

**CRITICAL VALUES**

**PH < 7.30 or >7.60**  
**PCO2 > 55.0**  
**PO2 < 60.0**

The sources used for our Normal Values are Bayer Diagnostics and Clinical Blood Gases by William J. Malley, N.S., RRT, CPFT, W.B. Saunders Company, 1990. The Critical Values are approved by the Respiratory Medical Director. Reference Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual, Section Patient Care Services, PC07, on the HRMC Intranet, for further clarification.