Memorandum - Core #234

To: UNC Medical Center, Faculty Practice Physicians, Hillsborough Hospital, UNC Raleigh Children's, Eastowne, Chatham Park MOB

From: Stephanie Mathews, MD; Director of Hematology, UNC Medical Center
Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD; Medical Director, UNCMC McLendon Clinical Laboratories
Mariama Evans, MD; Medical Director, Hillsborough Hospital
Jason Merker, MD, PhD.; Medical Director, Eastowne MOB Laboratories
Steven W. Cotten, PhD, DABCC; Director UNC Children's Raleigh and Chatham Park MOB Laboratories

Date: July 31, 2026

Subject: New Outpatient Hemoglobin Critical Value Threshold

Effective Monday, 8/3/2026, UNC Health McLendon Clinical Laboratories will be implementing an updated outpatient hemoglobin critical value threshold of **<7.0 g/dL** across the UNC Medical Center, Hillsborough Hospital, Eastowne, Chatham Park MOB, and Raleigh Children's laboratory locations. This change is intended to standardize practice across sites and improve timely notification of clinically significant hemoglobin values in the outpatient setting.

Beginning on the go-live date, outpatient hemoglobin results of **6.9 g/dL or lower** will generate a critical value notification in accordance with laboratory critical value reporting procedures. Inpatient hemoglobin critical value notification criteria will remain unchanged.

Patient Population	Previous Threshold*	New Threshold
Outpatients	Varied by location (5.0–6.0 g/dL)	**<7.0 g/dL**
Inpatients	<5.0 g/dL	**No Change – remains <5.0 g/dL**

For questions regarding this change, please contact:
Dr. Stephanie Mathews (Stephanie.Mathews@unchealth.unc.edu)

Thank you for your partnership in supporting safe and consistent patient care.