July 10, 2012

To: Chiefs of Service, Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nurses and Other Concerned Personnel

From: Eberhard Fiebig, M.D. [Signature]
      Director, Clinical Laboratory

Re: Critical Base Deficit Value Notification Discontinued for Adults

Effective July 10, 2012, the SFGH Clinical Laboratory and Respiratory Care Services will no longer call providers with critical base deficit values, which had been defined as base deficit results > 12 mmol/L as derived from blood gas measurements.

The Clinical Laboratory will, however, continue to notify providers or responsible care givers (RNAs) of base deficit values > 10 mmol/L in infants between 0-30 days old and for all base deficit values > 10 mmol/L obtained on cord blood samples; i.e., we will continue to treat these results as critical values.

This change, which was approved by Critical Care and Medical Executive Committees at SFGH, will align our practice more closely with that of the UCSF Medical Center.

For questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Eberhard Fiebig by phone (x68588) or email (efiebig@ucsf.edu.).