

Laboratory Case 4 - Electrolyte Findings

Experiment 12 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Teaching scenario: A coded record contains an unexpected electrolyte result.

Aim

To interpret a laboratory report in its clinical and medicine context.

Principle

Laboratory interpretation uses method-specific units and ranges, specimen validity, time trends and the overall clinical picture.

Requirements

- Allocated clinical notes or fictional case, current approved medicine information and local clinical policy.
- Case-record form, calculator where needed and supervising pharmacist.

Procedure

1. Prepare the case

Use the allocated clinical record or a fictional teaching case. Record a case code, setting and date; exclude names and personal identifiers.

2. Assess the required information

Confirm sodium/potassium and specimen-quality information; trend, symptoms, renal context and relevant medicines; laboratory reference interval and any critical-result flag. Note missing information explicitly.

3. Develop the pharmacy assessment

Check the units, timing and specimen flags. Identify a result needing prompt clinical escalation under local policy and discuss potential confounding; do not independently prescribe a correction from this record.

4. Discuss and document

Present the assessment to the supervising pharmacist or treating team. Record the accepted action, responsible person and intended follow-up.

5. Evaluate the outcome

Review the agreed clinical or process endpoint. Record what changed, what remained unresolved and the next step.

Observations and Record

Record component	Student entry
Report / date / specimen	_____
Result / unit / local interval	_____
Previous result and trend	_____
Medicine-related review issue	_____
Escalation / supervisor decision	_____
Follow-up result	_____

Result

Assessment: _____. Proposed action: _____. Supervisor decision: _____. Follow-up outcome: _____.

Precautions

- Use the treating team and current patient-specific information for all actual medicine decisions.
- Maintain confidentiality and confirm allergy, medicine and timing information.
- Do not invent patient observations, acceptance of an intervention or follow-up outcomes.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Why collect patient-specific information?

Medicine decisions depend on the individual indication, risks, current treatment and monitoring needs.

2. What makes a pharmacy intervention useful?

A specific identified problem, a justified action, a clear communication route and a documented outcome.

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