

Lab Values Cheat Sheet

Complete Blood Count

TEST	NORMAL RANGE
WBC	4,500–11,000 / μ L
Haemoglobin (M / F)	13.5–17.5 / 12.0–15.5 g/dL
Haematocrit (M / F)	41–50% / 36–44%
Platelets	150,000–400,000 / μ L
MCV	80–100 fL

Liver & Coagulation

TEST	NORMAL RANGE
ALT / AST	7–56 / 10–40 U/L
Alkaline phosphatase	44–147 U/L
Total bilirubin	0.1–1.2 mg/dL
Albumin	3.5–5.0 g/dL
PT	11–13.5 sec
INR	0.8–1.1 (2.0–3.0 on warfarin)
aPTT	30–40 sec

PT/INR goes with warfarin; aPTT goes with heparin.

Critical Values — Report Immediately

TEST	CRITICAL LOW	CRITICAL HIGH
Sodium	< 120	> 160 mEq/L
Potassium	< 2.5	> 6.5 mEq/L
Glucose	< 50	> 400 mg/dL
Calcium	< 6.0	> 13.0 mg/dL
Haemoglobin	< 7.0 g/dL	—
Platelets	< 50,000 / μ L	> 1,000,000 / μ L
INR	—	> 5.0
pH	< 7.20	> 7.60

Thresholds are set by each laboratory — follow your local critical-value list. Look at the patient before the textbook: a high potassium in a well patient is often a haemolysed sample.

Electrolytes & Renal

TEST	NORMAL RANGE
Sodium	135–145 mEq/L
Potassium	3.5–5.0 mEq/L
Chloride	98–106 mEq/L
Bicarbonate	22–28 mEq/L
BUN	10–20 mg/dL
Creatinine (M / F)	0.6–1.2 / 0.5–1.1 mg/dL
Glucose (fasting)	70–100 mg/dL
Calcium	8.5–10.5 mg/dL
Magnesium	1.5–2.5 mEq/L
Phosphate	2.5–4.5 mg/dL

Arterial Blood Gas

VALUE	NORMAL
pH	7.35–7.45
PaCO ₂	35–45 mmHg
PaO ₂	80–100 mmHg
HCO ₃ [−]	22–26 mEq/L
SaO ₂	95–100%

ROME: Respiratory Opposite (pH & CO₂ move apart), Metabolic Equal (pH & HCO₃ move together).