Interpretation of Laboratory Reports - Two Cases

Experiment 2 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To identify therapy-related concerns in two fictional laboratory reports.

Principle

Interpretation combines units, laboratory intervals, trend, specimen quality, symptoms and medicines; a flagged value is not a complete diagnosis.

Two Fictional Reports

Case	Supplied data	Review focus
1	Older adult on an ACE inhibitor: potassium 6.1 mmol/L, creatinine above prior baseline; symptoms and specimen comment need review.	Prompt clinical communication of the high-potassium report, assess specimen validity and medicines without delaying urgent review.
2	Warfarin user: supplied INR 5.1 above the person's documented target; bruising reported.	Prompt anticoagulation-team review, check bleeding, interacting medicines and recent doses; the team determines adjustment and follow-up.

Key Points

- Check person, date, units and the report's own intervals.
- Compare with previous values and review medicines that may affect the finding.
- Critical findings require prompt communication rather than waiting to finish documentation.

Activity Procedure

1. Validate

Check report identity, collection time, units and specimen comments.

2. Compare

Identify abnormal or changing values using the supplied intervals.

3. Link therapy

List relevant medicines and information needed for review.

4. Escalate

Communicate urgent concerns and document the authorised plan.

Record and Observations

Case	Finding / relevance	Action / authorised plan
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____

Result

Complete the record using your activity, then state the findings, the action required and the reason for that action.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Why compare trends?

A change can be clinically important even when one value is near an interval.

2. Why review specimen quality?

Haemolysis and other issues may alter results.

3. Who changes the regimen?

The authorised care team using the full clinical context.

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