Abstract

While lab values can be found in every medical chart, many physical therapists express frustration with identifying and interpreting key lab results. The Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy Practice Committee recently updated its Lab Values Interpretation Resources, outlining the necessity for every PT and PTA to demonstrate competence with lab value interpretation in clinical decision making. It is expected that each physical therapist will integrate information from the chart review in order to anticipate medical conditions and recognize lab values that may affect intervention. For example, as early mobilization becomes a reality in all patient populations, PTs and PTAs need to recognize clinical implications of lab values and how to make modifications to the plan of care. The speakers will present this updated document with a succinct guide for the busy therapy provider. Through lecture, cases, and quizzes, attendees will recognize the importance of lab values and their implications to promote safe and effective care.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize the importance of reviewing lab values prior to initiating an examination/intervention.
2. Describe the clinical considerations related to abnormal lab values.
3. Classify lab values that are pertinent to physical therapy professionals and their implications on various systems.
4. Utilize the Guide to identify relative and absolute parameters for therapeutic participation.