



MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Purpose:

The purpose of this guidance is to explain the conventions for significant figures, rounding and precision for the MSDH's MS Medical Cannabis Program. It represents the MSDH's current direction on the proper use of rounding conventions in medical cannabis testing facilities.

Rounding:

In reporting results, it is necessary for a testing facility to round the results to the correct number of significant figures. There are different rounding conventions in use, and the MSDH has adopted a hybrid approach in which the rounding convention used for a number ending in 5 depends on the context. In reporting measured values, 5 is rounded to the nearest even number. For calculated values, 5 is rounded up.

The conventions are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Conventions for Rounding for Calculated and Measured Values

Conventions for Rounding	Examples	
	Rounding Off Calculated Values	Rounding Off Measured Values
1. If the digit being dropped is 1, 2, 3 or 4, leave the preceding number as-is.	1.11 → 1.1 1.12 → 1.1 1.13 → 1.1 1.14 → 1.1	Same
2. For calculations: If the digit being dropped is 5, round the preceding digit up.	1.15 → 1.2	N/A
3. For measurements: If the digit being dropped is 5, round the preceding digit to the nearest even number (0 is considered an even number when rounding).	N/A	1.25 → 1.2



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4. If the digit being dropped is 6, 7, 8 or 9, increase the preceding digit by one.	1.16 → 1.2 1.17 → 1.2 1.18 → 1.2 1.19 → 1.2	Same
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The conventions shown above for measured results are consistent with the rules for rounding found in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, Part 1050 B.

For calculated results, rounding of 5 is consistent with the convention used by Microsoft Excel software.

If a testing facility chooses to use the same convention for calculated values as for measured values, the facility is allowed to do so, provided the facility commits to utilizing the same convention consistently.

A shorthand version of the information presented in this section is as follows:

- **Measured values – the digit 5 should be rounded to the nearest even number.**
- **Calculated values– the digit 5 should be rounded up, unless the testing facility has chosen to follow the convention for measured values. The permit holder must do so on a consistent basis.**