







MEMORANDUM #121

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nursing Coordinators,
Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM:  Catherine A. Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB
Director of Core Laboratories, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

 Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

 Prashant Kaul, MD, FACC, FSCAI
Medical Director, Chest Pain Center

 Abhi Mehrotra, MD, FACEP
Chief, Division of Quality & Performance
UNC Department of Emergency Medicine

CC: Rex Hospital Clinical Staff
Chatham Hospital Clinical Staff

SUBJECT: CK-MB Testing in Acute Coronary Syndromes

DATE: March 9, 2015

Effective March 18, 2015, CK-MB will be removed from all order sets used in chest pain assessment at UNC, Rex, and Chatham Hospitals on recommendation by Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, and Laboratory Medicine. CK and CK-MB will no longer be listed as part of the default order set for chest pain assessment.

Troponin T or I should be the only laboratory test used when serial studies are needed. CK-MB will still be available as a separate (or add-on) test if required until further notice.

This move is in recognition of recent studies and data suggesting that with contemporary troponin assays, CK-MB is not useful in the diagnosis of acute coronary syndromes. In addition, in the recently published practice guideline (1), the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force have also recommended against using CK-MB for the diagnosis of acute coronary syndromes.

1. Amsterdam EA, Wenger NK, Brindis RG, Casey Jr DE, Ganiats TG, Holmes Jr DR, Jaffe AS, Jneid H, Kelly RF, Kontos MC, Levine GN, Liebson PR, Mukherjee D, Peterson ED, Sabatine MS, Smalling RW, Zieman SJ, 2014 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Management of Patients With Non-ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (2014), doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014.09.017.