



UNC  
HEALTH CARE

**MEMORANDUM #153**

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

FROM: *JS* John Schmitz, Ph.D., Director, Clinical Immunology Laboratory  
*CAH* Catherine A. Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB, Director, Referral Testing Laboratory  
*HCW* Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D., Director, McLendon Laboratories

DATE: October 6, 2014

**SUBJECT: RAST Testing at Commonwealth Laboratories**

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Effective immediately, Commonwealth Laboratories, our referral laboratory for in vitro allergen-specific IgE testing, is replacing the mRAST test with an Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA). This change is due to ongoing safety and regulatory issues that impact radioimmunoassay (RIA) tests including mRAST.

Commonwealth Laboratories has conducted comparative analyses of mRAST and the Hycor Biomedical EIA and found greater than 95% correlation between these platforms when class scores are compared. Quantitative results will be provided in IU/ml with ascribed classes.

Order forms will continue to indicate RAST until they can be changed.

Please note that the UNC Hospitals Clinical Immunology Laboratory will continue to provide in house allergen-specific IgE testing on the ImmunoCAP platform.

Questions about this change can be directed to the Referral Testing Laboratory (966-2362) or Dr. Schmitz at 966-8453.