



MEMORANDUM #154

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

FROM: ^{MBM} Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Molecular-Microbiology Laboratory
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DATE: September 13, 2014

SUBJECT: Changes to CMV Quantitative PCR (Viral Loads)

Effective October 14, 2014, the McLendon Clinical Laboratories are implementing some changes to CMV viral load testing performed on blood. The testing methodology will not change (QIAGEN artus reagents performed on the Abbott m2000 system), but testing will now be performed by the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory. Testing will still be performed daily, Monday through Friday.

Collection tubes will change from lavender top tubes to pearl top tubes, with the exception of newborn collection which will remain lavender top microtainers. The tubes should be delivered to the Core Laboratory immediately (tube station 30), but no longer than 6 hours after collection. This means that outreach locations will need to send specimens to the outreach laboratory by a STAT courier by calling 919-966-5885.

The test now has a limit of detection of 60 IU/mL and a reportable linear range of 100 – 300,000 IU/mL. Positive results below 100 IU/mL will be reported as Detected, <100 IU/mL with no further quantification provided.

Positive results $\geq 10,000$ IU/mL will be paged to the Infectious Disease Immunocompromised Host Service Fellow for coordination of clinical care. All positive results on infants <3 months of age will be called to the ordering physician.

Patients with negative viral loads should have a maximum of 1 test performed per week. Patients with positive viral loads will be allowed repeat testing every 3-4 days. Testing requests outside of these parameters will be cancelled after discussion with the ordering physician.

For more information, consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website (https://labs.unchealthcare.org/labstestinfo/c_tests/cm_vl.htm/) or contact the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 919-966-6101 or Dr. Melissa Miller at 919-966-3723.