



## MEMORANDUM #177

TO: UNCHC Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *MM* Melissa Miller, Ph.D., Director, Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory  
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SUBJECT: **Changes to the BK Viral Load Testing Performed on Blood and Urine at UNCH**

DATE: April 19, 2018

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Effective April 23, 2018, the UNCH McLendon Clinical Laboratories will implement a change to the BK viral load testing performed on blood (EPIC: BK viral load, blood, quantitative) and on urine (EPIC: BK viral load, urine, quantitative). BK quantification will be performed using a new laboratory developed PCR assay using ELITech analyte specific reagents targeting the VP-1 gene.

### Important changes are:

- Positive results are reported as IU/ml (previously reported as copies/ml).
- The lower limit of detection is 13 IU/mL (1.1 log (10) IU/mL) for plasma and 60 IU/mL (1.8 log(10) IU/mL) for urine.
- The range of quantification for both specimen types is 200 – 20,000,000 IU/mL (2.3 log (10) – 7.3 log(10) IU/mL).
- Positive results in blood that are greater than 10,000 IU/ml will be called to the ordering provider. Positive urine results of any value will NOT be called.
- Positive results below 200 IU/mL will be reported as “Detected, <200 IU/mL” with no further quantification provided.
- Preferred collection tube is a pearl top (plasma preparation tube).
- Testing will be performed two times per week on Tuesday and Friday.

### Remaining the same:

- Orders will appear the same in EPIC
- Patients with “Not Detected” results should have a maximum of 1 test performed per week. Patients with “Detected” results will be allowed repeat testing every 3-4 days. Testing requests outside of these parameters will be cancelled after discussion with the ordering physician.

Questions can be directed to the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu).