



MEMORANDUM #77

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

FROM: Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories
Cathy Holleman, Administrative Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: April 28, 2014

SUBJECT: CMS Approved Panels

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McLendon Clinical Laboratories now offers the following CMS approved panels that can be ordered in EPIC.

Electrolyte Panel - Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO₂

Basic Metabolic Panel –Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO₂, Creatinine, Glucose, BUN, Calcium

Renal Function Panel – Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO₂, Creatinine, Glucose, BUN, Calcium, Albumin, Phosphorus

Hepatic Function Panel-Albumin, Total Bilirubin, Direct Bilirubin, Alkaline Phosphatase, Total Protein, AST, ALT

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel - Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO₂, Creatinine, Glucose, BUN, Calcium, Albumin, Total Bilirubin, Alkaline Phosphatase, Total Protein, AST, ALT

The use of panel orders does come with the need for caution on the part of clinicians regarding Medical Necessity, the risk of duplicate orders and frequency limits.

1. CMS will reimburse only one (1) Comprehensive Metabolic Panel per day. We recommend that the use of this panel be limited to one order at admission for inpatients, with continued monitoring through the use of smaller panels or individual tests as appropriate.
2. Panel test elements do overlap, so be aware that if you order two panels together you may be placing duplicate orders for certain analytes and the duplicate orders will **not** be reimbursed by CMS. The only safe combinations are **Electrolyte Panel** with **Hepatic Function Panel** or **Basic Metabolic Panel** with **Hepatic Function Panel**. All other combinations should not be used. Overlapping test orders cannot be identified by the laboratory prior to analysis. Please help us avoid the unnecessary expense caused by duplicate orders.