



**MEMORANDUM # 115**

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

FROM: *CH* Catherine Hammett-Stabler, PhD, Director, Core Laboratory  
*CB* Connie Bishop, MT(ASCP), Assistant Administrative Director, Core Laboratory  
*MO* Marsha Owens, MT(AMT), Supervisor, Referral Testing Laboratory  
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DATE: May 23, 2013

**SUBJECT: Change in Carotene Testing on May 28, 2013**

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Referral Testing announces a change in the carotene testing sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML). MML currently performs carotene testing using a colorimetric method. Effective May 28<sup>th</sup>, the laboratory will introduce a more specific analysis for **beta-carotene** using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

Due to restrictions from ISD, orders placed in SMS/CPOE between 5/28/13 and 6/9/13 will have to be placed as Carotene. Starting 6/7/13 for SMS and 6/9/13 for CPOE, orders should be placed as Beta-Carotene.

Test ID: BCARO

Test Number: N151

SMS Browse: Beta Carotene

CPT Code(s): 82380

Specimen: 4 mL blood. Plain red top tube preferred/SST acceptable. PROTECT FROM LIGHT.

Turnaround time: 6-8 days

Patient preparation: Fasting for at least 12 h and no vitamin supplements or alcohol for 24 h prior to collection.

**IMPORTANT:** This change will result in new reference ranges:

Current reference range: 48 - 200 mcg/dL

New reference range:  $\geq$  18 years: 2.3 - 65.0 mcg/dL

<18 years: Not established

For questions or more information regarding this change, please contact Dr. Hammett-Stabler or Marsha Owens at 966-2362 or visit the McLendon Clinical Lab website

<http://labs.unchealthcare.org/> .