



**MEMORANDUM #144**

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

FROM: <sup>MJM</sup> Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Molecular Microbiology Laboratory  
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DATE: May 10, 2013

**SUBJECT: Changes to *Chlamydia trachomatis* cultures**

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Beginning immediately, the UNC Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will no longer provide *Chlamydia trachomatis* cultures on-site. *Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae* NAAT is the preferred test for urine, cervical and vaginal swabs, male urethral swabs, rectal swabs, throat swabs and ocular specimens [SMS/CPOE “CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHOEAE NAA”]. For remaining specimen types not tested by NAAT, *Chlamydia trachomatis* culture will be sent out to a reference laboratory with a turnaround time of 5-7 days [SMS/CPOE “CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS CULTURE” or “CULTURE, CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS”].

See numbered memo Micro #141  
([http://labs.unchealthcare.org/memo\\_archives/micro141.pdf](http://labs.unchealthcare.org/memo_archives/micro141.pdf)) for additional information on testing performed on-site.

If additional information is needed, please consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website at <http://labs.unchealthcare.org/> or contact Dr. Melissa Miller at pager 216-6131 or Referral Testing at 6-2362.