



**MEMORANDUM #111**

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

FROM: Catherine Hammett-Stabler, PhD, Director, Core Laboratory  
Robert Mills, MT(ASCP), Supervisor, Special Chemistry Laboratory  
Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: November 29, 2012

SUBJECT: **Change in Testing for Buprenorphine and Opiate Confirmation**

The Core Laboratory announces a change in testing for buprenorphine and opiate confirmation to take place December 7, 2012. Our two methods used to quantify these drugs and their metabolites will be combined into a single assay to improve service and reduce costs. The test will be performed in special chemistry using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry and turn-around time will be two to four days. The specific drugs and metabolites detected and reported are listed below. Fentanyl and methadone are not detected by the test and must be ordered separately.

Details about the assay follows:

| Test Name                            | Opiates Confirm, Urine                            |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Test #                               | 0485  |
| LIS ID                               | OPBUC   |
| CPT code                             | 82554   |
| Sample requirements                  | 10 mL Urine                                       |
| Profile Members                      | Lowest concentration reported<br>(Cut-off, ng/mL) |
| Buprenorphine                        | 5   |
| Norbuprenorphine                     | 5   |
| Morphine                             | 50  |
| Codeine                              | 50  |
| 6-acetylmorphine (heroin metabolite) | 15  |
| Hydromorphone                        | 50  |
| Hydrocodone                          | 50  |
| Oxycodone                            | 50  |
| Oxymorphone                          | 50  |

As a reminder, testing performed by McLendon Clinical Laboratories is for medical purposes only, and neither urine drug screening results nor confirmation results can accurately predict the dose, route, or time of ingestion for the compound detected.

Please contact Dr. Catherine Hammett-Stabler or Mr. Robert Mills for questions at 919-966-2361.