



MEMORANDUM #112

To: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Department Heads, Nursing staff and Supervisors

From: *CSH* Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Director Core Laboratory
Tina Leonard, MT (ASCP), Supervisor Core Laboratory
HW Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D. Vice-Chair and Director of the McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Subject: **CA 19-9 Testing to move in-house**

Date: January 23, 2013

The Core Laboratory announces the introduction of CA 19-9 testing effective February 1, 2013. The testing will be performed in the Core Laboratory using the Vitros 5600 chemistry analyzers (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Rochester, NY).

Ordering Information: Test ID – C199 Test Number - 1709 CPT Code – 86301

Aliases: Cancer Antigen 19-9, Carbohydrate Antigen 19-9, GI Cancer Antigen, 1116-NS-19-9 defined antigen

Specimen Requirements: 4 mL of blood/Serum Separator Tube/Gold Top, or
1 mL blood/ 2 microtainers.

Availability: Testing will be performed daily. STAT testing is available.

Reference Range and Interpretation: < 37 U/mL

Utility: Used as an adjunct test in the diagnosis and monitoring of pancreatic cancer. The test should not be used as a screening tool because concentrations may be elevated in non-malignant conditions such as pancreatitis, hepatitis, and other gastrointestinal diseases. The protein is closely related to the Lewis blood group antigen, patients who are Lewis antigen negative may NOT express CA 19-9 even in the presence of a pancreatic malignancy.

Testing notes: Currently this test is sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories where testing is performed using Beckman Coulter DXI 800 instrumentation which uses a different chemiluminescence-based immunoassay.

The Vitros system, used in the Core Laboratory, measures CA 19-9 also uses a chemiluminescence-based immunometric immunoassay. Comparison of results obtained using the Vitros method shows the method to trend the same as the Mayo method when serial samples from the same patient were tested, but to generally run higher (regression analysis: new CA 19-9 = 1.3 Mayo + 108, n=43). More information regarding the Ortho method may be obtained by calling the Core Laboratory. Please contact the Core Laboratory should it be necessary to reestablish a patient's baseline.

For questions or more information regarding this test, please contact Dr. Hammett-Stabler or Tina Leonard at 966-2361.