



UNC  
HEALTH CARE

**MEMORANDUM #105**

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

**FROM:** Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Director, Core Laboratory *CHS*  
Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories *HW*

**SUBJECT: Transition to a New Qualitative (Screening) Urine Pregnancy Test**

**DATE:** January 4, 2012

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McLendon Clinical Laboratories will transition to a new **qualitative (screening) urine pregnancy test** (SP Brand Rapid Test HCG Urine Cassette, Cardinal Health, Inc.) due to the discontinuation of the currently used Clinitest HCG Pregnancy Kit (Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics). When Siemens made the announcement mid-December, the Point-of-Care staff conducted a rapid evaluation/validation of several methods so that the change could occur quickly before current supplies were exhausted.

The transition will take place across the HealthCare system over the next 2-3 weeks as coordinated by the Point-of-Care and Outreach offices. The new test kit has similar sensitivity and specificity characteristics as the current test. Weakly positive or indeterminate results should be repeated in 48 hours or alternatively, a quantitative serum beta-hCG (BHCG, 713) should be ordered.

For questions or issues, please contact Dr. Catherine Hammett-Stabler (966-3724), the Point-of-Care coordinators (Karen Hrischuk, Dawn Smith 966-2449), or the Outreach Services (Lisa Learning 966-0406).