



MEMORANDUM #96

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

FROM: Christopher McCudden, Ph.D., Director, Special Chemistry *CRM*
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SUBJECT: CA-125 Reportable Range

DATE: February 25, 2011

The lower reportable limit for CA-125 has been extended down to 2.0 U/mL (previously 5.5 U/mL). The coefficient of variation at 2.0 U/mL was determined to be <10%. Note that the reference range for the test will remain at 35 U/mL. Results lower than the reportable limit will be reported as <2.0 U/mL and the change will take place effective February 28, 2011.

CA-125 is produced by the majority of epithelial ovarian tumors and may be useful for detection of residual disease. Elevated CA-125 concentrations may also be found in non-ovarian malignancies (hepatocellular carcinoma, pancreatic adenocarcinoma, lung cancer) and benign conditions (pregnancy, endometriosis, cirrhosis).

Please contact the Core Laboratory Supervisor (966-2361) or Dr. McCudden (966-3726) for questions concerning these changes.

Additional Resources:

Kabawat SE, Bast RC, Welch WR, Knapp RC & Colvin RB. Immunopathologic characterization of a monoclonal antibody that recognizes common surface antigens of human ovarian tumors of serous, endometrioid and clear cell types. *American Journal of Clinical Pathologists*. 79: 98-104; 1983.

Bast RC, Klug TL, St John E, Jennison E, Niloff JM, Lazarus H, Berkowitz RS, Leavitt T, Griffiths T, Parker L, Zurawski VR & Knapp RC. A radioimmunoassay using a monoclonal antibody to monitor the course of epithelial ovarian cancer. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 309: 883-887; 1983.

Eerdeken MW, Nouwen EJ, Pollol DE, Biers TW & De Broe ME. Placental alkaline phosphatase and cancer antigen 125 in sera of patients with benign and malignant diseases. *Clinical Chemistry*. 31:687-690; 1985.