



MEMORANDUM #100

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

FROM: Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Director, Core Laboratory *CSH*
Robert Mills, MT (ASCP), Supervisor, Core Laboratory *RM*
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SUBJECT: **Opiate Confirmation Testing Moves In-house**

DATE: July 22, 2011

The Core Laboratory announces the introduction of opiate confirmation testing effective July 29, 2011. Testing will be performed in the Special Chemistry Section using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). The test components are codeine, morphine, 6 acetylmorphine (the heroin metabolite), oxycodone, hydromorphone, hydrocodeine, and oxymorphone. Each of these will be detected and quantified when present in a sample at 50 ng/mL or greater. Currently, this testing is sent to the Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) in Rochester, MN and New England. Over the next year, additional tests will be added that are pertinent to the support of the pain clinics.

IMPORTANT CHANGES: The method developed in the Core Laboratory will expand the routine MML opiate confirmation by including identification of oxymorphone and is accurate to lower concentrations.

Ordering information: this test should be ordered to confirm a urine opiate screen.

Test ID – UPOC Test Number - 0470 CPT Code - 83925

Requests should be submitted as an add-on to the original order within 3 days of its testing to assure availability (remember we discard all samples after 4 days).

Specimen Requirements: 5 mL of urine

Availability: Testing will be performed on Tuesdays and Fridays with reporting the next day. STAT testing is not available.

Reporting and Interpretation: Results at or above this threshold will be quantified and reported in ng/mL. Results less than (<) the cutoff will be reported in that manner just as we report our in-house screens, unlike MML which reports these as “negative”.

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. These results indicate past exposure only.

Fentanyl, buprenorphine, and methadone are not detected by the test and must be ordered separately.

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