


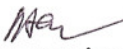


UNC
HEALTH CARE

MEMORANDUM #56

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

FROM: John Schmitz, Ph.D. 
Director, Flow Cytometry Laboratory

Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D. 
Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: September 3, 2010

**SUBJECT: Flow Cytometry Testing for Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria
(PNH)**

Beginning September 6, 2010, the Flow Cytometry Laboratory will utilize a new method for PNH testing by flow cytometry. The laboratory will evaluate the expression of glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) linked proteins on granulocytes and monocytes using fluorescent aerolysin (FLAER), a reagent that binds to the GPI anchor. Samples that demonstrate reduced or absent GPI expression will be tested for CD59 expression on red blood cells to determine if there is a complete absence of expression (Type 1 PNH cells) or reduced expression (Type II PNH cells).

The new test name is FLAER/PNH (test ID = PNHA) and the test number is "4540".

The test is performed on whole blood collected in lavender top tubes (EDTA). Samples received after 2:00 are processed the next working day. Friday samples must be received by 2:00pm.

Please direct questions to the Flow Cytometry Laboratory at 966-6100.