



UNC
HOSPITALS

MEMORANDUM #89

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

FROM: *CHS* Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Director Core Laboratory
RM Robert Mills, MT (ASCP), Supervisor Core Laboratory
HCW Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D. Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: February 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Changes in Acylcarnitines Profile and Carnitine Profile Testing

The Core Laboratory announces the introduction of in-house testing for acylcarnitines and carnitine using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LCMSMS). The acylcarnitine profile is useful in the evaluation of fatty acid oxidation defects and organic acidurias. The carnitine profile, which includes total and free carnitine, is also useful in the evaluation of carnitine deficiency.

Specimen requirements:

Acylcarnitine profile - 3 ml Na heparin (green top tube) or two (2) Na heparin microtainer bullets.

Carnitine profile – 3 ml Na heparin (green top tube) or two (2) Na heparin microtainer bullets. Samples should be delivered immediately to the Core Laboratory.

Availability: Testing will be performed twice per week. Stat testing or testing off-schedule is not available.

For questions or more information regarding these changes, please contact Robert Mills or Dr. Catherine Hammett-Stabler at 6-2361.