



MEMORANDUM # 77

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

FROM: Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Associate Director, Core Laboratory
Robert Mills, MT (ASCP), Supervisor Core Laboratory
John F. Chapman, Dr. P.H, Director, Core Laboratory
Mark Brecher, MD, Chair, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: Changes in Mycophenolic Acid (MPA) Testing

DATE: April 4, 2008

On April 7, 2008 the Core Laboratory will introduce in-house testing for mycophenolic acid (Cellcept, mycophenolate mofetil; Myfortic, mycophenolate sodium) using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LCMSMS). This technique separates the parent drug from metabolites providing an improvement in specificity to the parent drug.

Specimen requirements: Royal blue top or plain pediatric red microtainer bullets are acceptable. Tubes containing gel separators are not allowed and will be rejected. Trough specimens collected just before the next dose are the specimens of choice. Please notify laboratory if a peak specimen (2-hours post dosing) is submitted.

Availability: Testing will be performed Monday – Friday, samples must be in laboratory by 10 am to be reported same day. Stat testing or testing off-schedule is not available.

Reference range: 1.0-3.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (trough)

Toxic range: > 5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (trough)

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