



MEMORANDUM #148

TO: UNCHCS Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nursing Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

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SUBJECT: Serum Free Light Chain Testing

DATE: November 12, 2018

Effective November 15th, serum free light chain (kappa, lambda) testing will be performed using a new instrument and the current instrument will subsequently be retired. In addition, the UNC McLendon Clinical Laboratories will resume in-house testing for all serum free light chain orders, including patient samples with serum free light chain values > 45 mg/dL that were temporarily sent out to Mayo Clinic Laboratories (Core #147 memo).

During this transition, the ordering procedure in EPIC will remain the same, as will the specimen type.

Impact on patient free kappa and lambda testing:

- Reference ranges will not change.
- Patient free kappa values \leq 45 mg/dL as well as lambda values will be minimally affected.
- Patient free kappa values > 45 mg/dL may have lower values (mean bias = -15%) compared with Mayo Clinic Laboratories results though this is patient-dependent and variable.

Recommendation for Healthcare Providers:

- Due to inter-instrument and inter-method variability in serum free light chain testing, consider re-baselining patient test values with interpretation in the clinical context.

If you have any questions related to these changes, please contact the Core / Special Chemistry Laboratory at 984-974-1415 or Dr. Korpi-Steiner at 984-974-1498.