



MEMORANDUM #160

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

FROM: ^{MBM} Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Molecular Microbiology Laboratory
^P Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory
^{MCU} Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: July 7, 2015

SUBJECT: New norovirus testing

Beginning July 7, 2015, the UNC Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will begin offering molecular detection of norovirus (EPIC Order: Norovirus PCR) as a stand-alone test. Norovirus PCR is available 24h a day, 7 days a week with a routine turnaround time of 8h and a STAT turnaround time of 2h. Only loose stool specimens will be accepted. Vomitus and formed stools will be rejected. Repeat testing of positive patients is not recommended. Immunocompetent patients may shed norovirus for weeks while immunosuppressed patients may shed for months to years.

Inhibition of the assay was observed in the presence of benzalkonium chloride. False-negative test results were reported in the presence of barium sulfate.

Norovirus is also one of the pathogens detected in the GI Pathogen Panel [EPIC Order: GI Pathogen Panel (UNC)]. See [GI Pathogen Panel](#) website for more information on this test.

If additional information is needed, please consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website at [Norovirus PCR](#) or contact Dr. Melissa Miller at pager 919-216-6131.