Memorandum - Core #229

To: UNC Health Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: Nichole Korpi-Steiner, PhD, Director, Special Chemistry Laboratory
Sascha Tuchman, MD, MHS, Director, Multiple Myeloma & Amyloidosis
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Date: January 7, 2026

Subject: Discontinuation of random "spot" urine monoclonal gammopathy testing

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Effective January 20th, 2026, in order to better serve UNC Health patients and providers as well as better align ordering/testing practices with the International Myeloma Working Group, College of American Pathologists, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology [1-4], the McLendon Laboratories Special Chemistry Lab will discontinue random "spot" urine monoclonal gammopathy testing as these random urine tests have no validated clinical utility in evaluating potential monoclonal gammopathies and invite erroneous test ordering and diagnostic delays. The following tests will be discontinued:

Test ID	Current Test Name	Lab Practice Change
LAB438	Urine Protein Electrophoresis, Random	Discontinued
LAB5193	Immunofixation Electrophoresis, Urine	Discontinued
LAB5198	Monoclonal Gammopathy Workup, Urine, Random	Discontinued

Recommendations for Providers:
Serum studies are recommended as first-line screening tests for patients with suspected monoclonal gammopathies. Protein electrophoresis and immunofixation on 24 hour urine specimens can be informative for assessment of potential renal disorders stemming from monoclonal gammopathies, and remain part of official response criteria for multiple myeloma.

The following test panels are available to facilitate the ordering process:

Test ID	Current Test Name	Test Includes
LAB5356	Monoclonal Gammopathy Workup, Serum	Serum protein electrophoresis; serum immunofixation; serum free

		light chains; serum total protein; quantitative IgG, IgM and IgA
LAB11009	Monoclonal Gammopathy Workup, 24 H Urine	24 h urine protein electrophoresis, 24 h urine immunofixation, 24 h urine total protein

The following ala carte orders are also available, if needed:

Test ID	Current Test Name
LAB119	Serum protein electrophoresis
LAB174	Immunofixation, Serum
LAB11143	Serum protein electrophoresis + serum immunofixation (SPE + IFIX)
LAB735	Serum Free Light Chains
LAB438A	Urine protein electrophoresis – 24 hr
LAB9284	Immunofixation, 24 hr Urine

Please contact Dr. Sascha Tuchman (sascha_tuchman@med.unc.edu) for any clinical questions regarding this change.

Please contact Dr. Nichole Korpi-Steiner (Nichole.korpi-steiner@unchealth.unc.edu) for any technical questions.

References:

[1] Rajkumar S, Dimopoulos M, Palumbo A, et al. International Myeloma Working Group updated criteria for the diagnosis of multiple myeloma. Lancet Oncol, 2014. DOI: 10.1016/S1470-2045(14)70442-5

[2] Keren D, Bocsi G, Billman B, et al. Laboratory Detection and initial Diagnosis of Monoclonal Gammopathies. Arch Pathol Lab Med, 2022. DOI: 10.5858/arpa.2020-0794-CP

[3] Mikhael J, Ismaila N, Cheung MC, et al. Treatment of Multiple Myeloma: ASCO and CCO Joint Clinical Practice Guideline. J Clin Oncol, 2019. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.18.02096

[4] Kumar S, Paiva B, Anderson KC, et al. International Myeloma Working Group consensus criteria for response and minimal residual disease assessment in multiple myeloma. Lancet Oncol, 2016. DOI: 10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30206-6