



UNC
HEALTH CARE

MEMORANDUM #125

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

FROM: *SM* Stephanie Mathews, M.D.,
Director of Analytical Hematology, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

HCW
Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: Changes in Peripheral Blood Smear Reporting

DATE: October 29, 2015

Effective 11/2/2015, Hematology reporting of morphology observed on peripheral blood smear will have some changes in descriptive terminology and quantitation.

The changes will improve reporting of clinically significant but low-incidence findings and bring our reporting more in line with the recommendations of the International Council for Standardization in Hematology (ICSH) published in 2015.

Significant changes are summarized here:

1. The recommended descriptor "Reactive Lymphocytes Present" will replace "Atypical Lymphocytes Present" to describe benign variation in lymphocyte morphology associated with viral infections and reactive process.
2. The threshold for reporting "MODERATE" Red Blood Cell morphology findings for Poikilocytosis, Ovalocytes, Target Cells, and Teardrop Cells is adjusted to $\geq 10\%$ of the RBCs observed.

Reporting of Schistocytes, Polychrome, and other RBC morphology is unchanged. Reporting of other WBC and PLT morphology is also unchanged. For questions relating to these changes, please contact Christopher Parker in Core Laboratory at 984-974-2361.