



MEMORANDUM #163

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

FROM: *MHM* Martha McGee
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DATE: November 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Reflex Urine Cultures for All Inpatients

Beginning November 2, 2015, **reflex urine cultures for all inpatients will be discontinued.** This change is being made in order to detect clinically significant urinary tract infections. This will reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics and is an important component of our antibiotic stewardship program. In addition, this change will support the UNC Health Care CAUTI (Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection) reduction collaborative working group initiative to reduce catheter related urinary tract infections. Catheterized patients with asymptomatic bacteriuria will often have positive urinalysis limiting its value as a screening test and contributing to a potentially high rate of false positive urine cultures from catheterized patients. CAUTI rates are an important measure of quality of care, High CAUTI results inflated by false positive cultures may result in decreased reimbursement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and private insurers.

Reflex urine culture will continue to be offered for patients in the Emergency Department and Outpatient Clinics.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo please contact Dr. Peter Gilligan at (984) 974-1450 or page him at (919) 216-1681.