

MEMORANDUM # 46

To: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Department Heads, Nursing staff and Supervisors

From: Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Associate Director, Core Laboratory  
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Subject: Changes in Thyroid Testing and Initiation of CA-125 Testing

Date: January 20, 2005

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On January 25, 2005 the Core Laboratory will make several changes to the tests currently available for thyroid testing:

1. The reference range for thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) for healthy adults will change based upon in-house data. The newly determined range is 0.60-3.30  $\mu$ IU/mL.
2. Free T4 testing will become available in-house. The method is a direct, competitive (labeled antibody) chemiluminescent immunoassay. There is no change in sample collection requirements. The test will be available Monday-Friday until 10 pm, Saturday until 4 pm. Testing outside of this schedule is available with approval. We have determined the reference range to be 0.71-1.40 ng/dL for healthy adults.

Values obtained using the new method are not identical to those obtained using the equilibrium dialysis method available through our referral laboratory; the equilibrium dialysis method trends higher (regression analysis: new free T4 = 0.646 Mayo equilibrium dialysis + 0.139,  $r = 0.95$ ).

3. The T3-Uptake (T3UP) test will no longer be available. Total T4 (T4) will be available until March 1, 2005; but we ask that you do not order both a total T4 and free T4 on the same sample to avoid reimbursement issues.

Additional reference range information for healthy, euthyroid pediatric and pregnant patients is available via the McLendon Clinical Laboratory On-line Test Information Manual at <http://www.pathology.unc.edu/labs/frame.htm>. For questions or more information regarding these changes, please contact the core laboratory at 6-2362 or Dr. Catherine Hammett-Stabler at 6-3724.

Additionally, the Core Laboratory will begin testing for CA-125 (C125) in-house using a chemiluminescent immunoassay. The reference range for this test is < 35 U/mL. There is no change in sample collection requirements. Testing will be available Monday- Friday until 10 pm, Saturday until 4 pm.