



MEMORANDUM #165

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

FROM: *JS* John Schmitz, Ph.D., Director, Clinical Immunology Laboratory
EW Eric Weimer, Ph.D., Associate Director, Clinical Immunology Laboratory
PG Peter Gilligan, Ph.D. Director, Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratories
HCU Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: March 9, 2016

SUBJECT: Change in Cryptococcal Antigen Detection Method

Effective March 10, 2016 the Clinical Immunology Laboratory will change from the latex agglutination method (Cryptococcus Antigen Latex Test, Remel) to a lateral flow method (CrAg® LFA, IMMY) for detection of cryptococcal capsular polysaccharide antigen in serum and cerebrospinal fluid. The lateral flow assay is being implemented due to its ease of use and equivalent performance compared to the latex agglutination assay.

The lateral flow assay will be implemented as follows:

1. All patients being tested for the first time will be tested using the lateral flow assays.
2. New samples from patients that have had a recent positive test (with a titer) using the latex agglutination test will be tested by the lateral flow assay with titer. The sample will also be tested by the latex agglutination assay with titer to facilitate interpretation of the new result. The latex agglutination titer will be reported in the comment field in EPIC. All subsequent samples will be tested with the lateral flow assay only.
3. Positive samples will have a titer determined with the lateral flow assay to a dilution of 1:10,240. Samples positive at this dilution will be reported as $\geq 1:10,240$. If an endpoint titer is needed, please contact the Immunology laboratory at 984-974-1815.
4. There will be no changes in test ordering. For serum samples, the EPIC order is Cryptococcal Ag, serum. For CSF samples, the EPIC order is Cryptococcal Ag, CSF.

Please direct questions to the Clinical Immunology Laboratory at 984-974-1815, Dr. John Schmitz at 984-974-1452 or Dr. Eric Weimer at 984-974-1451.