



MEMORANDUM #166

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

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DATE: March 31, 2016

SUBJECT: Changes in CMV Viral Load Testing

Effective April 6, 2016, McLendon Clinical Laboratories will re-institute in-house quantitative CMV viral load testing performed on blood (Epic: "CMV DNA Quantitative PCR"). Details on the test offered can be found here: <http://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/app/files/public/1038/pdf-mclendon-labs-memo-micro154-sep13-2014.pdf>. The CMV qualitative blood assay that is currently being performed will no longer be available. Patient results will be issued the same day as tested, which is generally within 24h of collection (M-F). The limit of quantification for this assay is 100 IU/mL. Results can be found under the Infectious Disease folder.

All patients who have been Negative by the previous qualitative test and all new patients will be tested using the in-house quantitative test beginning on the effective date. Due to the inherent variability between assays, all current patients who are Positive with the Mayo Laboratories quantitative assay will continue to have their blood sent to Mayo Laboratories for testing until they test Negative. At that time, their samples will then be tested in-house.

As a reminder, patients with negative quantitative results have a maximum of 1 test performed per week. Patients with positive viral loads will be allowed repeat testing every 3-4 days. Testing requests outside of these parameters will be cancelled after discussion with the ordering physician.

Questions can be directed to the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at 984-974-1444.