Memorandum – Molecular #41

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: Karen E. Weck MD
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JG
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Date: July 10, 2025

Subject: BRAF Somatic Mutation Testing-Hematologic Malignancies

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Effective August 1, 2025, the UNC Molecular Genetics Laboratory will discontinue the testing for ***BRAF* Somatic Mutation Testing-Hematologic Malignancies (LAB6788).**

The lab will continue to offer the testing for ***BRAF* V600 Mutation Analysis** by droplet digital PCR to detect any of three activating mutations in codon 600 (encoding V600E, V600K, or V600R). In addition, BRAF mutations can also be identified by the Myeloid Mutation Panel (MDS/MPN and AML). Results assist in diagnosis, classification and/or treatment selection for solid tumors or hairy cell leukemia.

Test Name in Epic:
BRAF V600 Mutation Analysis

Test Order (EAP) number in Epic:
LAB6793

Specimen Requirements:
The preferred specimen is ten unstained paraffin sections (5-10µM thick, plain glass), plus an H&E-stained slide on which areas with >10% malignant cells are circled with a total area >2mm2. Unfixed marrow aspirate smears or biopsy touch preparation slides are also acceptable. Specimens having 5-10% malignant cells are considered at the discretion of a lab director. Unacceptable specimen types are plasma and frozen or decalcified tissue.

Additional information is available on the UNC Molecular Genetics Laboratory website: https://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/directory/molecular-pathology-and-genetics/

UNC_BRAF_ddPCR_flyer_Rev 01-13-25.pdf

Questions can be directed to the UNC Molecular Genetics Laboratory at **(984) 974-1825** or Dr. Karen Weck at Karen.Weck@unchealth.unc.edu

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