



MEMORANDUM #99

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

FROM: Catherine Hammett-Stabler, Ph.D., Director, Core Laboratory *CS*
Tina Leonard, MT (ASCP), Supervisor, Core Laboratory *TL*
Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D. Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories *HW*

SUBJECT: Free T3 Testing in-house and thyroid testing ordering

DATE: July 22, 2011

The Core Laboratory announces the introduction of free T3 testing effective August 5, 2011. Currently this test is sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories where testing is performed using a similar, chemiluminescence-based immunoassay. The testing will be performed in the Core Laboratory using the Vitros 5600 chemistry analyzers (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Rochester, NY).

Ordering Information: Test ID – T3FR Test Number - 1711 CPT Code – 84481

Specimen Requirements: 4 mL of blood/Serum Separator Tube/Gold Top, or
1 mL blood/ 2 microtainers.

Availability: Testing will be performed daily. STAT testing is available.

Reference Range and Interpretation: The following ranges are reported for euthyroid patients

Age Group (Years)	Free T3 Reference range (pg/mL)
<20	2.28-4.81
20-39	2.32-6.09
40-59	2.71-6.16
60-79	2.45-5.93
>79	2.34-5.61

The following ranges are reported for euthyroid pregnant women

Trimester	Free T3 Reference range (pg/mL)
First	2.88-4.32
Second	2.56-4.41
Third	2.47-4.73

Values obtained using the new method are not identical to those obtained using the immunoassay used by our referral laboratory (regression analysis: new free T3 = 2.23 Mayo immunoassay – 2.99, r= 0.74).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Recently we have had a number of laboratory testing bills rejected by CMS and some private insurers when both Total T4 and Free T4 were co-ordered. CMS will not reimburse both of these when co-ordered on the same sample. The same is true for Total T3 and Free T3. We ask that you help us conserve resources and please avoid ordering these pairs together.

For questions or more information regarding this test, please contact Dr. Hammett-Stabler or Tina Leonard at 966-2361.