



Memorandum - Core #220

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

From: *HCU* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, UNCH McLendon Laboratories
SWC Steven W. Cotton, PhD, Director, UNCMC Automatic Chemistry Laboratory

Date: April 1, 2025

Subject: Permanent discontinuation of CK-MB

Effective 4/15/25 McLendon Laboratories will permanently discontinue CK-MB testing (LAB63). The action aligns with multiple professional guidelines supporting troponin as the preferred cardiac biomarker for diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction (MI). Both the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and European Society of Cardiology (ESC) recommend troponin testing over CK-MB due to improved accuracy and higher sensitivity for MI. Additionally, troponin and natriuretic peptides (NT-proBNP or BNP) are preferred for evaluation of myocardial injury and heart failure in the setting of myocarditis. Total CK (Creatine Kinase) LAB62 will still be available in EPIC.

Departmental and personal order sets may need to be updated to include high-sensitivity troponin (hsTnI) or NT-proBNP, depending upon the clinical application.

Choosing Wisely

<https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/collections/choosing-wisely/246.html>

2014 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Management of Patients with Non-ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines PMID:25260718

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25260718/>

BlueCross Blue Shield of North Carolina: Biomarkers for Myocardial Infarction and Chronic Heart failure

<https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/policies-guidelines-codes/commercial/laboratory/notifications/biomarkers-for-myocardial-infarction-and-chronic-heart-failure-08-15-2023>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Steven.Cotten@unchealth.unc.edu.