



MEMORANDUM #138

TO: UNCHCS Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *NKS* Nichole Korpi-Steiner, PhD, Director, Special Chemistry Laboratory
CC Christian Cristobal, Assistant Administrative Director, Core Laboratory
ST Sascha A. Tuchman, MD, MHS, Director, Multiple Myeloma and Amyloidosis Program
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SUBJECT: Changes to Serum Protein Electrophoresis Testing

DATE: October 26, 2017

Effective November 6th 2017, serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP) and immunotyping using capillary electrophoresis will be performed using a newer, improved model of our current analyzer.

Impact on patient SPEP testing:

- Reference intervals will not change for total protein, albumin, alpha-1 globulin, alpha-2 globulin, beta-1 globulin, beta-2 globulin, and gamma globulin.
- Patients with paraproteins (M-spikes) previously reported as “too low to accurately quantify” may be reported with quantitative values due to improvements in analytical quantitation using the new analyzer (see table below).

Changes in the M-spike thresholds for quantitation of paraproteins by protein fraction:

Protein Fraction	Previous M-spike quantitation threshold, g/dL	New M-spike quantitation threshold, g/dL
Alpha-1	2.5	0.5
Alpha-2	2.5	1.1
Beta-1	1.3	0.6
Beta-2	1.3	0.6
Gamma	0.3	0.1

Please note that quantitative M-spike values reported on or after November 6, 2017 may or may not indicate an actual change in the patient’s M-spike level that was previously reported as “too low to accurately quantify”.

If you have any questions related to these changes, please contact the Core / Special Chemistry Laboratory at 984-974-1415 or Dr. Korpi-Steiner at 984-974-1498.