Memorandum Core #228

To: UNC Medical Center Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, House staff, Department Heads and Supervisors, UNC Hillsborough Hospital, UNC Health Eastowne

From: Dana Neutze MD, PhD; Department of Family Medicine
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Date: October 24, 2025

Subject: Standardization of Ferritin Reference Range and Iron Deficiency Agile Pathway

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Effective 11/1/2025 all UNC Health Laboratories will standardize adult ferritin reference ranges to >30 ng/mL for patients >18 years. This change coincides with the release of a new Iron Deficiency Agile Pathway in EPIC@UNC. Pediatric ferritin ranges will not change at this time.

Attribute	Ferritin
Reference Range	>30 ng/mL
Critical Values	None
Result Comment	The likelihood of iron deficiency increases with lower ferritin concentrations, including those that overlap with laboratory normal reference intervals: <30 Probable (or likely) iron deficiency 30-50 Possible iron deficiency >50 Iron deficiency is less likely. However, in the setting of inflammation, infection, or in other special populations, ferritin may not reflect physiologic iron stores.

References:
Use of ferritin concentrations to assess iron status in individuals and populations, WHO 2023
https://www.who.int/tools/elena/interventions/ferritin-concentrations

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