



MEMORANDUM #164

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

FROM: *MBM*
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HW Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Molecular Microbiology Laboratory
Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory
Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: February 10, 2016

Subject: **Changes to CMV Quantitative PCR (Viral Loads) Testing**

Effective February 10, 2016, McLendon Clinical Laboratories are implementing some changes to CMV viral load testing performed on blood. Due to technical problems with the current quantitative assay performed in-house, we will be implementing a qualitative screening test. The new test can be ordered in Epic as "CMV Qualitative PCR, Blood". This test is performed in-house and has a limit of detection of 137 IU/mL. Negatives and low positives (<137 IU/mL) will be resulted the same day tested, which is generally within 24h of collection (M-F). These results can be found under the Infectious Disease folder. Positive specimens at or above 137 IU/mL will automatically be reflexed to a quantitative PCR performed by Mayo Medical Laboratories. These results can be found in the Referral Lab Test folder. This approach will allow us to quickly report positive/negative results and decrease the number of tests being sent to a reference laboratory.

As with the previous quantitative assay, patients with negative qualitative tests should have a maximum of 1 test performed per week. Patients with positive viral loads will be allowed repeat testing every 3-4 days. Testing requests outside of these parameters will be cancelled after discussion with the ordering physician.

For more information, contact the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at 984-974-1444.