



MEMORANDUM #171

TO: UNCHCS Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *PG* Peter Gilligan, PhD; Director, Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratories
HCW Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD; Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories
NKS Nichole Korpi-Steiner, PhD, Associate Director, Core Laboratory
MHM Martha McGee, Assistant Administrative Director, Microbiology/Immunology Laboratories
CC Christian Cristobal, Assistant Administrative Director, Core Laboratory

SUBJECT: **New Urine Collection Devices for Urine Culture, Urinalysis and Other Laboratory Urine Testing**

DATE: July 3, 2017

Effective July 10th, the McLendon Clinical laboratories will implement new urine collection devices for urine culture, urinalysis and other laboratory urine testing. Collections will need to utilize one of two new collection tubes listed below. Other laboratory tests that utilize urine as a source will not be affected by this change i.e. Chlamydia/Gonorrhea, Legionella urine, urine Cytology, Point-Of-Care urine testing, etc. Please refer to the specific test webpages for the most accurate collection information, including minimum volumes and proper collection containers.

Urinalysis and Urine chemistries	BD Round Bottom Tube –No preservative	Pale Yellow top tube	Lawson ID 052983
Urine culture	BD C&S Preservative Tube	Gray top tube (with transfer straw device)	Lawson ID 135243

Urine specimens will now be collected using the BD Vacutainer transfer straw kit. This transfer kit will include the C&S Preservative tube for culture as well as the transfer straw device. Tubes for urinalysis and other urine chemistries will be available separately.

Conversion to the new culture tube will preserve urine samples and keep them stable for 48 hours. Preservation at the time of collection will reduce the number of contaminated urine specimens, therefore leading to reduced numbers of mixed cultures. The tubes will also prevent leakage that may occur during transit, thereby minimizing cancellations. The conversion to these tubes is also necessary for the implementation of laboratory automation in the microbiology laboratory, which will begin this summer.

Please note that the stability for urinalysis in the pale yellow top tube is the same as the sterile cup: up to 2 hours at room temperature and 8 hours refrigerated.

Training of the nursing staff and offsite locations took place June 7th-10th. Lab test orders numbers will not be affected by this change. Specimen labels will be updated with the new collection device information. If the collection label indicates a sterile container, you may continue to send the primary container for that testing.

If you have any questions about the conversion, please contact Martha McGee, AAD of the Microbiology laboratory (984-974-144) or Christian Cristobal, AAD of the Core laboratory (984-974-1491).