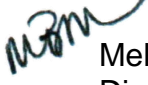





Memorandum Micro #213

To: UNC Health Affiliate Lab Directors

From:  Melissa B. Miller, PhD
Director, Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory

 Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Date: October 19, 2022

Subject: Acceptability criteria for reflex molecular testing

Effective October 24, 2022, the UNC Medical Center Clinical (UNCCMC) Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will no longer accept serum samples for molecular testing that are not in a primary, unopened tube. We can no longer accept specimens that have been used for immunologic testing. This policy change primarily affects reflex testing for HIV and HCV and is a result of increased false positive molecular results observed on reflexed specimens.

Plasma specimens for routine, non-reflexed HIV Viral Load tests should continue to be spun and aliquoted prior to sending to UNCCMC. Other blood specimens for routine molecular testing should be spun and sent in the primary plasma preparation tube (PPT) or serum separator tube (SST), as indicated.

If you have questions, please contact the Molecular Microbiology Lab (984-974-1820) or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.