





MEMORANDUM #180

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

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

 Melissa Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory

DATE: October 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Changes in EBV Viral Load Testing Effective October 8, 2018

Effective October 8, 2018, the UNCMC McLendon Clinical Laboratories will implement a change to the EBV viral load testing performed on blood (EPIC: EBV Quantitative PCR, Blood (LAB 1373)). EBV quantification will be performed using a new laboratory developed PCR assay using ELITech analyte specific reagents targeting the BNRF1 gene.

Important changes are:

- The lower limit of detection is 62 IU/mL.
- The range of quantification is 200 – 1,000,000 IU/mL.
- Positive results in blood that are greater than 1000 IU/mL will be called to the ordering provider.
- Positive results below 200 IU/mL will be reported as “Detected, <200 IU/mL” with no further quantification provided.
- Preferred collection tube will be a pearl top (plasma preparation tube).

Remaining the same:

- Orders will appear the same in EPIC
- Patients with “Not Detected” results should have a maximum of 1 test performed per week. Patients with “Detected” results will be allowed repeat testing every 3-4 days. Testing requests outside of these parameters will be cancelled after discussion with the ordering physician.
- Stated Turn-around time is 3 days from receipt of specimen.

Questions can be directed to the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.