




Memorandum – Admin #88

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

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

Date: April 13, 2023

**Subject: Catecholamine Fractionation, Free, Plasma Test ID: CATP
No Longer Available from Mayo**

We have just received the following from Mayo Medical Labs:

Due to instrument issues, Catecholamine Fractionation, Free, Plasma Test ID: CATP will be made non-orderable on the effective date. An update will be provided when normal testing resumes. The recommended alternative test is considered the gold standard testing for the diagnosis and follow up of pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas. The only cases that could benefit potentially from plasma catecholamine testing would be patients with extremely rare tumors that are suspected to produce solely, or predominately dopamine; this could be addressed by ordering urine metanephrines with included 3-methoxytyramine, the chief dopamine metabolite (Test ID: META3). Note: The recommended alternative test requires a different collection tube than CATP. Samples received in Catecholamine tubes after the effective date cannot be tested.

Recommended Alternative Test: Metanephrines, Fractionated, Free, Plasma Test ID: PMET

We are having Epic@UNC remove the test as orderable for UNC Health Care.

The recommended alternative is orderable in Epic as:
METANEPHRINES, FRACTIONATED FREE PLASMA [LAB5712]

For questions related to these changes, you can contact Herbert Whinna via Epic In-Basket or email me at: Herbert.Whinna@unchealth.unc.edu.