




## Memorandum Micro #211

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

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

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Date: September 20, 2022

**Subject: Changes to Hepatitis C virus RNA (Viral Load) Testing**

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Effective September 21, 2022, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center will implement a change to Hepatitis C viral load testing performed on blood (EPIC: "Hepatitis C RNA, Quantitative PCR" Test ID: LAB887).

Important changes are:

- Real-time RT-PCR detecting Hepatitis C virus RNA will be performed on the Abbott Alinity m instrument instead of the Abbott *m2000* Realtime System.
- Testing will be performed daily Monday through Friday instead of twice per week allowing for a decrease in turnaround time from 5 days to 3 days.

Remaining the same:

- The limit of detection is 12 IU/mL and the reportable linear range is 12- 100,000,000 IU/mL (1.08  $\log_{10}$  – 8.00  $\log_{10}$  IU/ml).
- Specimens with results below 12 IU/mL will be reported as "Detected, <12 IU/mL" with no further quantification provided.
- Specimens with results above the reportable range will be resulted as "Detected, >100,000,000 IU/mL" with no further quantification provided.
- Collection tube remains serum separator tube.
- This test requires a dedicated specimen and cannot be added on to specimens already in the laboratory.

Questions can be directed to the UNCMC Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu).