



**Memorandum – Core #194**

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

From: *Hew* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD  
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*fo* Ryan O'Mara, Manager, Referral Testing Services, UNC Medical Center

Date: January 26, 2023

**Subject: Phenobarbital Testing Send Out**

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Due to continued supply chain disruptions, all phenobarbital testing for the UNC Health System will be sent to reference laboratories effective immediately. This shortage is expected to last approximately 5 weeks or until reagents are available again from the manufacturer (expected March 3 2023)

Orders for Phenobarbital will not change in EPIC. Specimens will be triaged based on order priority (routine vs. STAT) in EPIC.

Routine (non-stat specimens) will be shipped to Mayo Clinic Labs in Rochester, MN.

	Phenobarbital	
	UNC (Current)	Mayo (New)
Specimen	red top serum	red top serum
Normal range	15-40 ug/mL	<b>20-40 ug/mL</b>
Critical range	>50 ug/mL	<b>&gt;60 ug/mL</b>
Turnaround time	2 hours	48 hours
Availability	7 days a week	7 days a week

STAT Specimens will be couriered to LabCorp in Burlington, NC twice daily (8 am, 3:30 pm)

	Phenobarbital	
	UNC (Current)	LabCorp (New)
Specimen	red top serum	red top serum
Normal range	15-40 ug/mL	15-40 ug/mL
Critical range	>50 ug/mL	<b>&gt;40 ug/mL</b>
Turnaround time	2 hours	10 hours
Availability	7 days a week	7 days a week

For questions please contact: Melanie Sekowski, Referral Testing Services, UNC Medical Center: 984-974-1414.