



MEMORANDUM #140

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

FROM: *ck* Christian Cristobal, Assistant Administrative Director, Core Laboratory  
*SM* Stephanie Mathews, MD, Director, Hematology/Urinalysis  
*HW* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: **New In-House Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)**

DATE: February 1, 2018

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Effective, Monday, February 5, 2018, UNCCMC McLendon Clinical Laboratories will be offering an in-house immunoassay fecal occult blood-screening test (fecal immunochemical test; FIT) for the qualitative detection of human hemoglobin in feces. In contrast to Guaiac testing, dietary and medicinal restrictions are not required. Samples for this testing have previously been sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories.

Clinical Significance:

The presence of fecal occult blood is associated with gastrointestinal disorders such as diverticulitis, polyps, inflammatory bowel disease, and colorectal cancer. Early diagnosis by fecal occult blood screening and treatment of these problems has been shown to significantly reduce mortality from colorectal cancer.

Test Limitations:

Patient's with bleeding hemorrhoids, menstrual bleeding, urinary bleeding, or suspected upper gastrointestinal bleeding should not be considered for testing. This test is not intended to replace other diagnostic procedures, such as colonoscopy.

Specimen Requirements:

For UNC Medical Center Clinics and UNC Outpatient Clinics:  
Special Collection Kits with instructions, sampling bottle and mailer are available from the UNC Outreach Laboratory and can be collected by the patient or clinic personnel and mailed directly to UNCCMC Outreach Laboratory.

For Affiliate Locations:

Special Collection Kits with instructions, sampling bottle and mailer are available from the UNC Outreach Laboratory and can be collected by the patient or clinic personnel and mailed to the parent hospital lab of the ordering location (i.e. REX clinics should send mailers to REX laboratory for processing and routing to UNCCMC)

For Placing an Order in EPIC:

For all Outpatients:

*Immunochemical Fecal Occult Blood Test*, LAB10441 should be ordered as a FUTURE order and NOT released.

For UNCCMC Inpatients:

Samples must have an Immunochemical Fecal Occult Blood Test, LAB10441 ordered, lab label printed and collection task completed in EPIC. The Stool sample can be collected in a sterile specimen cup, lab label affixed, and then be delivered to UNC McLendon Core Lab.

NOTE: Sampling bottles are stable for 15 days at Room Temperature. Stool collected in a sterile specimen cup should be delivered to the Core Lab on the same day as collection.

If you have any questions regarding FIT, please call the Core Laboratory at 984-974-2361.