



Memorandum Core #165

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

From: *NKS* Nichole Korpi-Steiner, PhD
Director, Special Chemistry Laboratory

ST Sascha A. Tuchman, MD, MHS,
Director, Multiple Myeloma and Amyloidosis Program

MHM Martha McGee, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

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

Date: May 27, 2020

Subject: Serum Free Kappa Light Chain Testing

Serum free kappa light chain testing will be performed using a new lot of reagent effective May 29, 2020. There is essentially one vendor for the required reagents for this assay and the quality varies between lots. The Special Chemistry Lab's capacity to manage this inter-lot quality is limited, though we do sequester these reagents for approximately 6-12 months in order to minimize this analytical variability.

During this transition, the ordering procedure in EPIC will remain the same, as will the specimen type.

Impact on patient free kappa testing:

- Reference ranges will not change.
- Patient free kappa values ≥ 30 mg/dL may have lower values (bias approximately -20%) compared with previously reported UNC results though this is patient-dependent and variable.

Recommendation for Healthcare Providers:

- Due to lot-to-lot variability in reagents for serum free light chain testing, consider re-baselining patient serum free kappa light chain test values with interpretation in the clinical context.

If you have any questions related to these changes, please contact the Special Chemistry Laboratory at 984-974-1415 or Dr. Korpi-Steiner at 984-974-1498.