



Memorandum – Micro #203

To: UNCMC and Hillsborough Attending and Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads, and Supervisors

From: *MBM* Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory
KA Kevin Alby, PhD, Associate Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory
HCU Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director
McLendon Clinical Laboratories

MHM Martha McGee, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

CW Cher Wilson, Manager, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

MO Marsha Owens, Supervisor, Referral Testing Laboratory

Date: November 22, 2021

Subject: Discontinuation of Fecal Lactoferrin testing

December 1, 2021, the UNC Medical Center Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will no longer perform Fecal Lactoferrin (LAB6052) testing. The alternative test is Calprotectin, Stool (LAB5239) which will be sent to Mayo Clinic Laboratories. Calprotectin is performed M-F with a 3-5 day turnaround time. There are no changes to the specimen or collection.

Please update all personal preference lists to reflect this change.

Additional test information is available here:

<https://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/available-tests/calprotectin-stool/>

<https://www.mayocliniclabs.com/test-catalog/Overview/63016>

Justification for change:

The performance of qualitative lactoferrin tests for the prediction of the infectious etiology of diarrhea has been shown to be of limited utility with specificity in the 40-50% range and a positive predictive value of <20% ([Open Forum Infectious Diseases, December 2016](#))

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Acute Diarrheal Infection in Adults states with regards to using lactoferrin for determination of the need for stool culture: “using [lactoferrin] to guide further diagnostic studies has been proven to be imprecise and probably unnecessary” ([American Journal of Gastroenterology, May 2016](#))

The ACG recommends the use of calprotectin in patients for the identification of IBD ([American Journal of Gastroenterology, April 2018](#)).

Questions can be directed to:

Microbiology Lab (984-974-1805) or Dr. Kevin Alby at Kevin.Alby@unchealth.unc.edu

Referral Testing Lab (984-974-1414) or Marsha Owens at marsha.owens@unchealth.unc.edu