

MEMORANDUM # 61

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, , Nursing Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: David G. Grenache, Ph.D., Director, Special Chemistry Laboratory
John F. Chapman, Dr.PH, Director, Core Laboratory
Mark Brecher, M.D., Chair, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: **Intraoperative PTH testing**

DATE: August 31, 2006

Intraoperative PTH testing is performed in the automated immunochemistry section of the Core Laboratory. The steps listed below must be adhered to by both the ordering physician and the laboratory in order for PTH results to be provided within the desired timelines. Please note that intraoperative PTH testing can only be performed Monday through Friday during the day shift and only when scheduled in advance. The analytical time for the PTH assay is approximately 20 minutes. Allowing time for specimen handling and processing, the laboratory is able to produce intraoperative PTH results within 30 minutes of receiving the specimen.

1. Call the Core laboratory (6-2361) to schedule an Intraoperative PTH as far in advance as possible but no less than the day before the surgery is scheduled. Failure to schedule the testing in advance will prevent the laboratory from meeting appropriate turn around times.
2. During the procedure the OR should notify the laboratory by phoning 6-2361 when sending specimens collected into a lavender top (EDTA) tube. The specimen should be sent to the lab via the pneumatic tube system to the Blood Gas tube station (station #31) accompanied by a downtime requisition.
3. The laboratory will process and analyze the specimen and phone the result to the OR. Specimens with a result >5000 pg/mL will be reported as such. Repeat testing to produce an absolute value will be done at the request of the physician but will require additional time.
4. Upon receipt of the result the OR should indicate if subsequent specimens are to be sent for analysis. If additional specimens are sent then the OR should follow the guidelines in step 2 above.

Please contact Dr. David Grenache (966-3726) with questions concerning this procedure.