

**MEMORANDUM # 125**

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

FROM: Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Molecular Microbiology Laboratory  
Mark Brecher, MD, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

**SUBJECT: *Toxoplasma gondii* PCR**

DATE: August 3, 2007

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Effective August 6, 2007, the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will begin offering detection of *Toxoplasma gondii* by PCR. The test can be ordered in SMS and CPOE as **TOXOPLASMA PCR, BLOOD** (SCC test ID TOXOB, test # 9285) or **TOXOPLASMA PCR, NOT BLOOD** (SCC test ID TOXNB, test # 9286). This test replaces the reference laboratory test offered previously.

Specimen requirement for the blood assay is one full Plasma Preparation Tube (PPT) (pearl-top). For the non-blood assay, acceptable specimens are amniotic fluid and CSF. Additional specimen types require Director approval. The test will be performed 3-times/week. Requests for STAT testing (available on amniotic fluid ONLY) require Director approval.

*Toxoplasma gondii* DNA detection is performed using real-time PCR and detects the B1 gene. In-house validation studies demonstrated the lower limit of detection at 37.5 copies/mL.

For more information, consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories Manual of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Clinical Services (<http://www.pathology.unc.edu/labs>) or contact the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 966-6101.