



MEMO

To: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

From: Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology & Immunology
Linda Strycker, MT (ASCP), Manager, Microbiology

Date: July 2, 2008

Subject: Replacement of ICT Cards with new Automated Fecal Occult Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer

As of July 14th, 2008, Regional Medical Laboratory (RML) will no longer utilize the ICT card to test for colorectal cancer. This test will be replaced with the new automated fecal occult blood test (ICT OCCULT), an immunoassay which detects the presence of human hemoglobin using a photometric reading of the presence of an antibody-antigen complex. This immunochemical test provides several **advantages over** the old **guaiac** method which include **ease of collection, reduction in the number of samples needed, no dietary restrictions, increased specificity for human hemoglobin and detection of hemoglobin from the colon or rectal area only.**

The new ICT OCCULT test **requires only one sample** unlike the guaiac method test which required three (3) consecutive samples in order to confirm negativity. The ICT OCCULT **test also solves the problems** associated with the guaiac test which has had a low rate of patient compliance due to an unpleasant collection procedure and multiple dietary restrictions. The ICT OCCULT is reported to have a higher sensitivity and specificity with reported greater detection of early stage colorectal cancer.

RML will be replacing the ICT cards with the new ICT device. Please contact your Sales Representative or Client Services if you have not received the new collection device.

Test Highlights & References

Test Name: Fecal Occult Blood Test Automated
Order Name: **ICT OCCULT**
Test Number: **35-10285**
CPT Code: **82274**
Methodology: Immunoassay (ICT)
Performed: Daily with same day reporting
Reported: Same day
Reference Range: Negative
Specimen Required: Submit a single stool specimen collected on dowel of provided collection device
Transport: Routine courier pickup or U.S. Postal service, mail in provided mailer
Processing: Submit original collection device
Storage: Store at room temperature up to 5 days
Unacceptable Condition: Specimen collected more than 5 days prior to testing

If you have questions, please contact Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology or Linda Strycker MT (ASCP) Manager, Microbiology at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077.