



To: Medical Staff, House staff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics
From: Clarence Chan, MD, PhD
Associate Medical Director, Hyde Park Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Informatics
Date: 4/21/2026
Subject: **Fecal Pancreatic Elastase Testing Offered at UCM Clinical Chemistry Lab - Hyde Park**

Effective Date: 4/28/2026

Laboratory Section: Chemistry

Summary of Change:

The Hyde Park Clinical Chemistry Laboratory will implement a new in-house assay for fecal pancreatic elastase beginning April 28, 2026. Testing will transition from the current send-out ELISA-based assay performed at Mayo Clinic Laboratories to an automated particle-enhanced turbidimetric immunoassay performed in-house. This change allows testing to be performed locally on the chemistry automation line with a faster turn-around time.

Background:

Pancreatic elastase is a proteolytic enzyme produced by pancreatic acinar cells and serves as a marker for evaluating patients with suspected exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. It is commonly used in the evaluation and monitoring of pancreatic exocrine function in conditions such as chronic pancreatitis, cystic fibrosis, and diabetes mellitus.

Method Comparison:

Validation studies demonstrate qualitative concordance with the current send-out assay; however, quantitative differences in reported values may occur between methods. With the new assay, a single clinical cutoff will be used to distinguish normal pancreatic function from pancreatic insufficiency.

Test Information:

Test Name [Procedure] (Code): Pancreatic Elastase [LABCHFPELA] (850074)

CPT Code: 82653

Availability and Schedule: Batch testing is performed once daily, Monday through Friday

Turnaround Time: 1-3 days from sample receipt by the laboratory

Specimen Requirements: Stool specimen without preservatives, 5 g recommended (minimum 1 g)

Results Reporting:

Interpretation	Fecal Pancreatic Elastase
Normal pancreatic function	≥ 200 µg / g
Pancreatic insufficiency	< 200 µg / g

For questions or further details, please contact:

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