

To: Medical Staff, House staff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

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Date: 9/16/2026

Subject: Neutrophil Gelatinase-Associated Lipocalin (NGAL) Testing Offered at UCM Clinical Chemistry Lab - Hyde Park

Effective Date: 9/23/2026

Laboratory Section: Chemistry

Summary:

Effective September 23, 2026, the Hyde Park Clinical Chemistry Laboratory will implement neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (NGAL) testing in urine by immunoassay on our automated lines. NGAL is a biomarker that can rise within 2 hours of renal tubular injury and may provide an early indication of kidney injury, supporting assessment of the risk of acute kidney injury (AKI)¹.

Test Information:

Test Name [Procedure] (Code): Neutrophil Gelatinase-associated Lipocalin (NGAL) [LABCHNGAL] (878775)

Availability: 24 hours/day, 7 days/week

Acceptable Specimen Type: Urine, additive-free

Clinically Reportable Range: 51-45,000 ng/mL

Interpretive Ranges:

Age	Reference Cutoff	Increased AKI Risk Cutoff
<3 months	<i>Not defined</i>	
≥3 months to <22 years	≤50 ng/mL	≥125 ng/mL*
≥22 years	≤63 ng/mL	≥141 ng/mL

*The 125 ng/mL increased AKI risk cutoff applies to ICU patients only for this age group.

Disclaimer: The FDA-approved intended use of the assay is limited to pediatric patients ≥3 months to <22 years of age. Reference and increased AKI risk cutoffs for patients ≥22 years of age were established by the laboratory through in-house validation studies and are not part of the FDA-approved intended use of the assay.

¹Haase M, Devarajan P, Haase-Fielitz A, et al. The Outcome of Neutrophil Gelatinase-Associated Lipocalin-Positive Subclinical Acute Kidney Injury: A Multicenter Pooled Analysis of Prospective Studies. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2011;57(17):1752–1761.

If there are any questions regarding this change, please contact:

- The UCM Clinical Chemistry Lab – Hyde Park at 773-702-1772.
- Clarence Chan, MD, PhD, Associate Medical Director, Clinical Chemistry Service, clarence.chan@bsd.uchicago.edu
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