

**Date:** December 3, 2015

**To:** South Zone West:  
Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Staff

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services South Zone West

**Re:** Changes to Reporting of Serum HCG (HCGSER)

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**Key Messages:**

- Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory (Lethbridge) currently reports Serum HCG results as <1 IU/L and numeric values thereafter, with a reference range of 6 IU/L.
- Effective December 3, 2015, the reporting format will change:
  - Serum HCG results less than 5 IU/L will be reported as <5 IU/L
  - Reference Range for Males/Females will be <5 IU/L
  - Result comment will auto-attach:  
*Method Used: Siemens Vista - 4th WHO International Standard (75/589)*

*WARNING: Different methods give potentially significantly different numerical values. Do not compare results from method to method. Testing by the same method is required for serial monitoring.*

*Graphical displays (Netcare, POS) of serial data may be misleading if results are from different methods.*

**Why this is important:**

- Provincial standardization of reporting practices across all Vista analyzers.

**Action Required:**

- The Meditech Lab Information System has been updated to reflect these changes.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

Connie Hoffart, Chemistry Tech III at [Connie.Hoffart@ahs.ca](mailto:Connie.Hoffart@ahs.ca) or 403-388-6092

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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