

Date: January 25, 2016

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

From: AHS Laboratory Services South Zone West

Re: Cross Reactivity of Fulvestrant in Estradiol Assay

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Fulvestrant is used in post-menopausal women treated for estrogen receptor positive recurrent stage IV breast cancer.
- The drug fulvestrant cross reacts with the current Siemens estradiol assay performed at Chinook Regional Hospital which could lead to falsely elevated test results.
- The current Siemens estradiol assay may continue to be used to report results for patients NOT on fulvestrant therapy.

Why this is important:

- Falsely elevated Estradiol levels could lead to misinterpreting the patient as pre-menopausal possibly leading to altered or discontinued use of the drug fulvestrant.

Action Required:

- LIS Meditech request has been initiated to add a result comment for estradiol indicating: “The drug fulvestrant has demonstrated significant interference with this method and therefore an alternate method should be used when monitoring estradiol levels in patients being treated with the drug fulvestrant”.
- For patients being treated with fulvestrant, an alternate method should be used to measure estradiol concentrations. In these circumstances, please notify the lab 403-388-6057 to ensure that the estradiol request is referred to an alternate testing location that uses a non-Siemens Estradiol assay i.e. Calgary Lab Services.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Connie Hoffart, Chemistry Tech III at Connie.Hoffart@ahs.ca or 403-388-6092

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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