

Date: November 6, 2013

To: Central Zone – Stettler Hospital and Care Centre
Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Fetal Fibronectin Testing Available at Stettler Hospital and Care Centre Laboratory

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective **November 13, 2013**, fetal fibronectin testing (FFN) will be available on site at Stettler Hospital and Care Centre (HCC) Laboratory.
- FFN detection in cervicovaginal secretions is associated with preterm delivery in symptomatic women between 24 weeks 0 days and 34 weeks 6 days gestation.

Why this is important:

- There is no longer a need for the Stettler HCC Laboratory to send FFN samples to Red Deer Regional Hospital for testing. On site FFN testing will significantly improve testing turnaround time.

Additional Information:

- There has been no change to the ordering or collection requirements.
- The potential causes for false positive and false negative results remain unchanged. They are as follows:
 - False positive results can be obtained with the following conditions:
 - Gestational age less than 24 weeks 0 days or greater than 34 weeks 6 days
 - Cervix greater than or equal to 3 cm dilated
 - Maternal or fetal risks that compromise the mother or fetus such as trauma, severe gestational hypertension or severe intrauterine growth restriction
 - Ruptured membranes
 - Placenta previa or abruption placenta
 - Active vaginal bleeding
 - Cancer of the reproductive tract
 - Digital vaginal exam, sexual intercourse, or vaginal ultrasound within 24 hours prior to specimen collection
 - False negative results can be obtained with the following conditions:
 - Vaginal douche within 24 hours of testing
 - Specimen contamination with lubricants, soaps or lotions
 - Collection of the sample using the cotton tipped applicator rather than the provided polyester tipped applicator will result in the binding of the FFN to the cotton swabs

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemist, Central Zone, at: 403-406-5633 or email: allison.venner@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, AHS Medical / Scientific Director and ZCDH, Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone