

Date: January 21, 2016
To: All Zones - Physicians, Nursing, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Discontinuation of Amniotic Fluid Bilirubin Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective January 25, 2016 amniotic fluid bilirubin testing will no longer be available at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

In the past, amniotic fluid bilirubin testing was used to assess the severity of haemolytic disease of the fetus. More recently, however, accurate noninvasive modalities have become available and the amniotic fluid test is now rarely used.

Alternate names for this test include “amniotic fluid optical density difference”, “delta 450 measurement”, and “OD450 measurement”.

Why this is important:

For the past couple of years, amniotic fluid bilirubin testing was only available in Alberta at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Effective January 25, 2016 this test will no longer be available anywhere in the province.

Action Required:

If a physician requires amniotic fluid bilirubin testing, s/he should contact the clinical biochemist at Royal Alexandra Hospital to discuss the request and approve sending the sample to a referral laboratory for testing.

Inquiries and feedback:

Dr. Anna Fuezery, Clinical Biochemist, Edmonton Zone at 780-735-5658 or anna.fuezery@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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