



Laboratory Bulletin

Date: October 13th, 2016

To: All AHS Zones – Laboratory Directors, Managers, Supervisors, Physicians and Allied Health Care Professionals

From: All AHS Laboratory Services, Calgary Laboratory Services and DynaLIFE_{DX} Diagnostic Laboratory Services

Re: Discontinuation of Fetal Fibronectin Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- October 31st, 2016 Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) testing will be discontinued across the province.

Why this is important:

- A post-implementation evaluation completed by the Maternal Newborn Child & Youth Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) of the efficacy of cervical /vaginal fetal fibronectin (fFN) in the evaluation and treatment of threatened preterm labour in Alberta has concluded that fFN does not result in improved preterm labor prediction, management, care, outcome or cost savings.

Action Required:

- Review of additional supporting information on management of preterm labour and the Practice Support Guideline - Clinical Assessment of 'At Risk' or Actual Preterm Labour for Triage Guideline may be found on either AHS website below:
 - Insite - <http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/7363.asp>
 - External - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page7451.aspx>
- There is a plan and commitment from the Institute of Health Economics Alberta Canada, with Alberta Health approval, to undertake a timely re-evaluation of the discontinuation of fFN in January 2018 (14 months post removal) - titled ' Prospective Policy Impact Assessment - Disinvestment of fFN Testing in Alberta' - to determine that the decision does not have a negative impact regarding the prevention, assessment, triage, and outcomes for preterm labour and birth in Alberta.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Radha Chari at Radha.Chari@ahs.ca

or

Dr. Doug Wilson at Doug.Wilson@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Medical Director, AHS Laboratory Services