

Date: July 24, 2015
To: Edmonton Zone, DynaLIFE_{Dx}
Physicians, Nurse Managers and Educators, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Differences in Plasma/Serum Human Chorionic Gonadotropin Results

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Key Messages:

Plasma/serum human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is currently measured in multiple locations using different methods. Thus, numeric results from different locations may vary considerably.

In general, hospitals (Beckman or Siemens method) will report higher results than DynaLIFE_{Dx} (Roche method).

Why this is important:

An unexpected rise or fall in serial hCG results may not always be due to a change in clinical status. Rather, it may be due to the results arising from different methods.

Action Required:

1. Be aware of the method used to determine your patient's hCG results. This information is always provided on the patient report.

Example comment on a patient report:

"Method Used: Beckman Coulter – 5th WHO International Standard (07/364).

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.

Concerns may be addressed to the Clinical Chemist at 780 407 7484."

2. Do not compare results between methods

3. Be aware that graphical displays (NetCare, POS) of serial data may be misleading if results are from multiple locations using different methods.

For additional questions contact:

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Mr. Trefor Higgins, Director of Clinical Biochemistry, DynaLIFE_{Dx}, at trefor.higgins@dynamifedx.com or 780 451 3702

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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