

**Date:** January 30, 2015  
**To:** Edmonton Zone  
**Physicians, Nurse Managers and Educators, Laboratory Directors and Managers**  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Increase in Plasma Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) Results

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

Effective February 4, 2015 – The Edmonton Zone laboratories listed below are switching to a new HCG reagent formulation that is standardized against the World Health Organization's 5<sup>th</sup> International Standard (07/364). This will lead to the following changes:

1. Plasma HCG results will be, on average, 20% higher than with the old reagent formulation.
2. Plasma HCG results will be, on average, 25% higher than those reported by DynaLIFE<sub>DX</sub>.

Note that the reference intervals associated with men & non-pregnant women of child-bearing age (< 5 U/L), healthy perimenopausal women (≤ 8 U/L), and healthy postmenopausal women (≤ 14 U/L) will NOT change.

### Affected Laboratories:

Grey Nuns Community Hospital  
Leduc Community Hospital  
Northeast Community Health Centre  
Strathcona Community Hospital  
University of Alberta Hospital

Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital  
Misericordia Community Hospital  
Royal Alexandra Hospital  
Sturgeon Community Hospital  
WestView Health Centre

### Why this is important:

Effective February 4, some patients may show an unexpected change in their HCG level compared to previous values. This change should be interpreted with caution as it may be due to the use of a new HCG reagent formulation in Edmonton Zone laboratories.

### Action Required:

1. Be aware of the methodology & reagent formulation used to determine your patient's HCG result(s). This information is always provided by the laboratory as part of the patient report.
2. If you plan to monitor a patient using serial HCG levels, instruct the patient to go to a single facility for all of his/her HCG blood collections. This ensures that the same methodology is used for all measurements and that the results are comparable.

### For additional questions contact:

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### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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