

**Date:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
**To:** South Zone: Physicians, Nursing and Laboratory Staff  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Abbott i-STAT Beta-hCG Testing

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015** on-site testing for quantitative blood hCG levels will be available in the Brooks Health Centre for the investigation and management of ectopic pregnancy.

The test requires Lithium Heparin whole blood or Lithium Heparin plasma collected in plastic syringes or evacuated tubes filled to capacity. The reference interval for the test is <5 IU/L. All results greater than 2000 IU/L will be reported as >2000 IU/L.

Results from the i-STAT are not numerically equivalent to other analyzers. Do not compare results from method to method. Testing by the same method is required for serial monitoring.

In the setting of an indiscriminate transvaginal ultrasound finding, the index of suspicion for ectopic pregnancy increases with an hCG concentration greater than ~1000 IU/L.

Use of this test for the following purposes has **NOT** been validated:

- Testing in larger hospitals with on-site access to quantitative hCG testing
- Routine pregnancy screening
- Monitoring of high-risk pregnancies
- Monitoring of hCG-positive tumors and malignancies

### Actions Required:

1. If you are investigating an ectopic pregnancy, hCG must be ordered STAT or Urgent and write “ectopic pregnancy” on the requisition. Samples not meeting these requirements will be referred off-site.
2. To place Meditech orders for ectopic pregnancy the new order code is **HCG** and must be ordered STAT or Urgent.

### Implementation Site:

Brooks Health Centre

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical/Scientific Director