

Date: August 21, 2013

To: South Zone - West
Physicians, Nursing Unit Managers and Laboratories

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone West

Re: Fetal Hemoglobin Test (Apt Test) Transfer to Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS)

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Key Messages:

- Effective September 1, 2013, the Hematology department at Chinook Regional Hospital will discontinue testing for qualitative Fetal Hemoglobin (Apt Test), which is used to test for fetal blood in newborn vomitus or stool.
- The current test code “**HBFS**” will no longer be orderable.
- Fetal hemoglobin testing will continue to be available and will be referred to Calgary Laboratory Services. Order the test code “**APT**” in Meditech.
- This does not refer to the Kleihauer Betke test for fetal maternal hemorrhage, which remains available.

Why this is important:

- As the Fetal Hemoglobin Screen test is performed very rarely in South Zone West, staff proficiency is difficult to maintain.
- Detection of Fetal Hemoglobin by this qualitative method is insensitive and often difficult to assess.

Action Required:

- Order the test code “**APT**” in Meditech if a Fetal Hemoglobin test is required.
- Consult updated user notes when required.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Marion Jankunis, Pathologist, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory at: 403-388-6093
- Cathy Davies, Tech III, Hematology/Transfusion Medicine, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory at: 403-388-6106

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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Dr. Leland Baskin, Medical / Scientific Director, Calgary Laboratory Services