

Date: June 21, 2012

To: South Zone – East : Physicians – Pediatric, Obstetrics & Gynecology;
Nursing – Neonatal Unit, Labor & Delivery, Maternity

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (East)

Re: Cord Blood and Fetal Maternal Bleed Screen Test Changes

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Key Messages:

Standardized testing criteria have been developed for Cord Blood and Fetal Maternal Bleed Screen (FMBS) tests.

Cord Blood Test

Based on best practice from across the province, the following criteria will be used to determine when testing is performed:

- Mother is Rh negative
- Mother has a positive antibody screen
- Specifically requested by physician based on evidence of hemolysis.

Fetal Maternal Bleed Screen (FMBS) Test

FMBS testing will only be performed on Rh Negative Mothers with Rh Positive or Rh Indeterminate babies.

Why this is important:

Cord Blood Test

The above cord test criteria will remove blanket testing of Group O multigravida mothers but still allow the physician to order testing on cord bloods if the baby shows evidence of hemolysis (i.e. abnormal jaundice, anemia or other objective findings).

Fetal Maternal Bleed Screen (FMBS) Test:

The above FMBS test criteria will remove blanket ordering / testing of FMBS test on all Rh negative mothers.

Action Required:

Cord Blood Test (All Sites):

Nursing staff will order a CORD test on all babies. Lab staff will apply the above criteria and determine if cord blood testing is required.

Fetal Maternal Bleed Screen (FMBS) Test:

- Medicine Hat Regional Hospital: FMBS testing will be ordered by Laboratory staff once the cord testing is completed. The test will be ordered routine and will be placed into the next routine collection category.
- Rural Sites: FMBS testing will be ordered routine on all Rh Negative Mothers and sent to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital who will determine if testing is required.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Jacque Hess at 403-502-8648 ext. 1232 or Renee Tatro at 403-502-8648 ext. 1549

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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