

Faster In-Lab Testing for Serum Quantitative hCG; Serum Qualitative hCG Discontinued at Royal Oak and Grosse Pointe Campuses

Effective Date: November 1, 2016

Laboratory Bulletin

To provide more sensitive and specific hCG results, the STAT Laboratory at Beaumont, Royal Oak and the Chemistry Laboratory at Grosse Pointe have implemented streamlined processes for rapid testing and reporting of serum quantitative human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). The test must be ordered in Epic as **LAB6992 EC HCG, TOTAL BETA** to obtain the shortest possible in-lab time. Collection of the blood sample in a separate, SoftID-labeled gold-top serum separator tube (SST) will further decrease processing time.

As of November 1st, serum qualitative (POS/NEG) hCG testing (Epic LAB5067) will no longer be available at Royal Oak or Grosse Pointe campuses, and **thus physicians will need to change individual preference lists and order sets in Epic**. Serum qualitative hCG testing is not available at Beaumont – Farmington Hills or at any of the legacy Oakwood Hospital laboratories. However, the Laboratory at Troy campus will continue to offer the serum qualitative test with all positive tests automatically reflexed to the quantitative assay.

Laboratory-based serum quantitative hCG is the preferred immunochemical test to aid in the detection of pregnancy and other conditions that result in hCG elevations (see references 1-4 below).

Urine qualitative hCG testing will remain available at this time for inpatient units and the emergency centers. However, urine qualitative hCG testing has analytical limitations similar to those found with serum qualitative testing (see references 3, 4). When screening for pregnancy, it is recommended that blood be collected and sent to the laboratory for testing.

References:

1. Greene DN, et al. *Clin Chem Acta* 415:1, 2013
2. Greene DN, Grenache DG. *Am J Clin Pathol* 144(6):830-6, 2015
3. Nerenz RD, et al. *Clin Chem* 60:4, 2014
4. Nerenz RD, et al. *Clin Chem* 61:3, 2015

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Internal URL to Laboratory Bulletins:

http://employee.beaumont.edu/portal/pls/portal/ip30dev.page_pkg.page?xid=lab_bulletins

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<http://beaumontlaboratory.com/hospitals-laboratories-three/test-information-center/laboratory-bulletins/>

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

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