

### Serum Qualitative hCG Discontinued for Outpatients

Effective Date: April 18, 2016

# Laboratory Bulletin

In order to provide a more sensitive and specific analytical result to clinicians, Beaumont Laboratory (Grosse Pointe / Troy / Royal Oak sites) will no longer offer serum qualitative hCG testing for outpatients. If this test is requested, the ordering physician will be contacted and serum quantitative hCG testing will be offered.

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). Where time is not of the essence, the quantitative hCG testing provides a more accurate result to clinicians for the care of their patients.

Serum qualitative hCG testing will remain available at this time for inpatient units and emergency centers with positive results reflexed to a serum quantitative result. The laboratory is currently attempting workflow and instrumentation changes to make quantitative hCG results available in an acceptable timeframe for STAT, emergency, and trauma situations.

Note that point-of-care hCG testing of urine 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 lab for testing by quantitative hCG, the method that is less likely to yield false positive or false negative results.

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:

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

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Customer Service

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