

Lab Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2019 (11:15-11:25)

Attendance: Whitney, Laura S, Sally, David, Cole, Amy, Kayla, and Chantelle

1. Due to quality improvement initiatives underway and an acute shortage of staff, Fort Smith will be suspending their core lab services beginning, Monday, July 15, until further notice. They will be sending affected lab samples to us, at Stanton, for processing, with their regular shipments, Monday to Friday (arriving on site at approximately 1730).

- a. The following will be performed at Stanton (in addition to the testing that is already performed at Stanton from Fort Smith):

Sent to STANTON Territorial Lab
Test Name
Partial Thromboplastin Time
INR/PT
Complete Blood Count with Differential
Glucose, ALL
Gestational Glucose Testing, 75g
Glucose Tolerance Testing
Gestational Diabetes Screening
Sodium
Potassium
Urea
Total Bilirubin
Bilirubin, unconjugated
Bilirubin, conjugated
ALT
Creatine Kinase
Lipase
Anion gap

- b.
- c. Creatinine should be on the above list as well.
- d. CO2 will also be performed here once we have the approved validation from Dynalife.
- e. Please Note: This list may change.
- f. If you are busy in the evening, routine samples can be kept in the fridge or frozen until the morning. But, please be mindful of sample stability when receiving these samples, especially when receiving the boxes on Monday evenings as there could be samples from Friday through Monday in it.
- g. Samples may arrive as a STAT, so please perform these as such.
- h. Please let Chantelle know of any issues or concerns, and informed of how the process is. We will follow up at the next meeting as well to see how things are going.

2. The OR staff will be decanting formalin in the fume hood in the lab, until at least Monday, due to an unexpected downtime. A service tech will be on site to assess on Monday.
3. GNWT Funded Harmony Program has begun.
 - a. Any patients requiring the testing must have a GNWT Funded Harmony requisition with them when they present to the lab.
 - b. Kits will be placed in outpatient collections area. They are ordered through Dynalife, so let Chantelle know when we are running low. Instructions and tubes to collect are in each kit.
 - c. They can only be collected Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (to be shipped to Dynalife in the same day).
 - d. There is a lab quick reference guide that will be located in outpatient collection area.
 - e. See memo sent to physicians below:

We are pleased to announce the immediate availability of funded, non-invasive prenatal testing for all eligible NWT clients. The Harmony test will be provided free of charge to clients who meet specified clinical parameters and be processed by DynaLIFE, our laboratory consulting services.

The Harmony test may be ordered by the following healthcare practitioners:

- Obstetricians
- Family physicians, NPs and midwives are authorized to order NIPT directly for the following conditions:
 1. Twins
 2. Positive Maternal Serum Screen with confirmed dates.
 3. Prior pregnancy with trisomy 21, 18, or 13 or abnormal number of sex chromosomes.
 4. Maternal age >40 at estimated delivery date.
- For any other indications (i.e. fetal anomalies or soft markers), a FP, NP or midwife must discuss with or refer to an obstetrician at Stanton Territorial Hospital before requesting the test.
- NIPT results positive for T21, T18, or T13 should be referred urgently to the Obstetrics Service at Stanton Territorial Hospital for genetic counseling and amniocentesis if appropriate.

Only test kits provided by DynaLIFE are to be used for funded tests.

For processing, test samples must be returned to DynaLIFE via STH, IRH, Ft Smith or Hay River labs, even when drawn in another location.

Testing materials including required packaging and shipping supplies are available from hospital based laboratories at Stanton Territorial Hospital, Inuvik Regional Hospital, and Ft Smith and Hay River Health Centres only. Once the test is taken, it should be prepared for delivery immediately. Local laboratories have been supplied the details for how a Harmony test is to be packaged and shipped. Tests will be tracked via the DynaLIFE specimen tracking system and all tests will require the DynaLIFE supplied patient consent form and specimen requisition.

In order to ensure sample viability, **the sample must be procured on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday only**. This allows shipping to Dynacare within the 7 day requirement. Test results will be released to the ordering practitioner.

PLEASE NOTE: DynaLIFE will only process Harmony tests that meet the above-mentioned clinical criteria. For any other request for NIPT- Harmony testing that falls outside of the above listed clinical indications, please contact Dynacare Customer Care directly at the following number 1-888-988-1888 for instructions.