Department of Pathology, Division of Clinical Pathology

UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

November 10, 2016

Obstetrical care providers

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Dear Providers:

I am writing to inform you that due to low volumes of testing, we will no longer be able to provide in-house second trimester open spinal cord lesion and trisomy screening (Quad testing and prenatal Alpha Fetoprotein (AFP) testing). Unfortunately, this testing methodology requires a minimum number of specimens processed per year in order to ensure proper calculations of the Multiples of the Medians (MOMs) used for interpretation of these tests. At this point, our volume of testing is well below this minimum number. There are no concerns regarding the testing results and interpretations that have been reported on your patients, but we are not able to continue offering this testing in-house.

Starting December 1, 2016, all Quad testing and separate prenatal AFP samples received will be sent to LabCorp for analysis. This analysis is expected to be performed with a three-four day turn-around. The resulting reports will be added to the electronic chart and/or faxed to your office as we are currently doing for our in-house testing results. We will continue to perform AFP level testing for use as a tumor marker, but we are not able to perform and interpret this testing result for prenatal screens.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this change.

Thank you,

Matthew Elkins, MD PhD
Assistant Professor
Director of Transfusion Medicine and Apheresis
Director of Stem Cell Laboratory and Cord Blood Bank