

New Reflex Workflow for Positive Serum Qualitative hCG Results

This communication is from:

Shirley Li, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Clinical Pathology Services

Co-Director, Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratory

Applicable to: OSUWMC, The James and East Hospitals Medical Staff, and University Reference Laboratory Clients

SUMMARY OF TEST CHANGE

Effective **October 6**, all positive serum qualitative hCG results will automatically reflex to quantitative serum hCG testing on the Siemens Atellica.

This change is being implemented following several recent apparent false-positive qualitative serum hCG results that led to potential misinterpretation. The manufacturer has also issued communications describing similar limitations and potential interferences with the qualitative method. The reflex quantitative test will provide additional information to support more accurate interpretation of pregnancy status.

Workflow

- No change is required when providers place an order.
- A positive serum qualitative hCG result will automatically reflex to quantitative serum hCG testing.
- At locations with quantitative hCG testing, positive qualitative results may require an additional 10–20 minutes.
- SSCBC does not currently perform quantitative hCG testing. Positive qualitative specimens from SSCBC will be sent to JOC for reflex quantitative testing until this capability becomes available at SSCBC. Additional turnaround time should be expected because of specimen transport.

Please contact the Clinical Laboratories with any questions.

