

Learning Notice: 01/20

LABORATORY RESULTS DURING PREGNANCY

Circulation date: 19th November 2020

Actions required By Whom: Hospital Group CEOs, Hospital CEOs and Managers, Clinical Directors, Obstetric & Gynaecology Clinicians in all Directorates and Maternity Hospitals and Maternity Units, and Directors of Nursing and Midwifery, Hospital Laboratories.

By When: For **IMMEDIATE ACTION** in Maternity Hospitals and Acute Hospitals with Maternity Units/Services. Please ensure that this is brought to the attention of all relevant staff.

Learning:

When laboratory parameters (eg. haematology and biochemistry) are being reported for pregnant women, the reference range given should be that of pregnant women and not the normal population. Results have different significance depending on the pregnancy status of the woman and results which seem within normal range for a non-pregnant women may not necessarily be within normal range if the woman is pregnant.

This is a learning outcome from a systems analysis review.

NWIHP Learning Notices can be viewed on:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/quality-and-safety/>