Starting November 9, 2010, we are pleased to announce a new service for our healthcare providers. A new assay for the detection of fetal red cells in fetomaternal hemorrhage will be performed by flow cytometry using a fetal hemoglobin monoclonal antibody.

**CLINICAL INFORMATION:** This test may be used as an aid in identifying fetal-maternal hemorrhage and determining the need for immunoprophylaxis with immune globulin.

In this assay, fetal cells are identified by the presence of fetal hemoglobin with a flow cytometric method. The presence of fetal cells in the maternal circulation, resulting from fetal-maternal hemorrhage, may be attributed to a variety of causes including fetal trauma, various obstetrical emergencies and placental trauma. Hemorrhage of Rh+ fetal blood into Rh- maternal blood may result in the formation of Rh-reactive antibodies in the mother. This Rh immunization may be prevented by the administration to the mother of Rh immune globulin soon after delivery. The dose of Rh immune globulin is determined by the percent of fetal cells present.

**METHODOLOGY:** Flow Cytometry

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION:**
- **Source:** 5 mL EDTA whole blood
- **Stability:** 2 days refrigerated
- **Rejection criteria:** Hemolysis, Lipemia, Frozen or Clotted specimen

**PRODUCTION SCHEDULE:** Monday through Friday day and midnight shift
Weekends on day shift only.

In the rare case that flow is unavailable, the contingency plan will be to perform the Kleihauer-Betke test.

**SOFT ORDER CODE:** FTHGB

**CPT CODE:** 88184

*For further test information, please contact our client services department (800) 937-5521*