



**Chief (Interim), Departments of Laboratory Medicine  
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**TO:** Paediatricians, Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare  
NICU, Level II, and 4C Nurseries at McMaster Children's Hospital  
Neonatal NICU, and 3 Obstetrics at St. Joseph's Healthcare

**FROM:** Dr. Vina Alexopoulou, Chief (Interim), Laboratory Medicine at HHS and SJH

**RE: CHANGE IN LABORATORY PRACTICE – PAEDIATRIC DRUG TESTING**

Due to the recent suspension of non-research operations at the Motherisk Drug Testing Laboratory (MDTL) at the Hospital for Sick Children, the HRLMP in conjunction with ICL Labs will be coordinating forensic drug testing of faeces/meconium and hair specimens, effective immediately, and until further notice.

ICL Labs has selected USDTL (United States Drug Testing Laboratories) as its supplier, and USDTL has provided the following instructions around specimen collection:

1. **\*\*NEW REQUIREMENT FOR ALL TESTS\*\*** Forensic Newborn Drug Testing Custody and Control Form
2. Instructions to complete Custody and Control Form
3. Hair Collection Instructions
4. Meconium Collection Instructions

These documents are attached for your review.

Be sure to adhere to all instructions and processes, or the laboratory will not accept the samples.

Test orders will remain the same as previously provided by Motherisk by utilizing the option of 5 Drug Panel on the USDTL Custody Form.

Specimen collection kits (for either hair or meconium) complete with collection instructions, containers, and custody forms can be obtained by calling the Core Laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital (Ext. 36023) or McMaster Children's Hospital (Ext. 75022).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Tony Chetty at chetty@hhsc.ca.