Fetal Fibronectin Testing for Suspected Preterm Labour

Patient < 34* Weeks Gestation with Symptoms of Preterm Labour
* Testing may be completed on those patients between 34-35\(^6\) when a negative fFN result would influence a decision to transfer to a higher level of care.

Evidence of Ruptured Membranes
- Speculum exam before VE
- fFN swab from posterior fornix
- Cultures

Management of PROM
- Discard fFN swab

Intact Membranes

Vaginal Examination

Cx ≥ 3 cm Dilated
- Regular uterine activity
- Diagnosis preterm labour

- Treat for preterm labour
- Discard fFN swab

Cx < 3 cm Dilated
- Ongoing uterine activity
- Clinical suspicion of preterm labour

Send fFN swab

Cx Long + closed
- Contractions subsided
- No clinical evidence of preterm labour

- Reassure mother
- Discard fFN swab

Positive
- Treat for preterm labour
- Tocolytics
- Corticosteroids
- Antibiotics
- Consider transfer to appropriate level of care

Negative
- Reassure mother
- Consider F/U endovaginal ultrasound of the cervix if clinically indicated and U/S available
- Consider repeat test in 5-7 days, if symptomatic

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