

Discontinuation of Rapid Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) 10Q cassettes



N SAFETY NOTICE 017/25

Issue date:	6 August 2025
Replaces:	006/24 - Updated: Supply Disruption: Rapid Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) 10Q cassettes
Content reviewed by:	Maternity Policy and Strategy Unit, Health and Social Policy Branch, NSW Health Maternal Perinatal Patient Safety Team, Clinical Excellence Commission
Distributed to:	Chief Executives; Directors of Clinical Governance; Director, Regulation and Compliance Unit
KEY MESSAGE:	Supply of Rapid Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) 10Q cassettes has been discontinued. Remaining stock will expire in November 2025. An alternative product, Actim Partus, that provides a qualitative result, remains available for ordering.
ACTION REQUIRED BY:	Pregnancy Connect Care Coordinators and Medical Leads
REQUIRED ACTION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute this Safety Notice to all relevant clinicians, clinical departments where pregnant women at risk of premature birth receive care. Include this Safety Notice in relevant handovers and safety huddles. Report any associated incidents into ims+
DEADLINE:	N/A
We recommend you also inform:	Directors, Managers and Staff of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maternity Services
Website:	https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/sabs/Pages/default.aspx http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/index.html
Review date:	February 2026

Discontinuation of Rapid Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) 10Q cassettes

N SN: 017/25

What is updated in this Safety Broadcast from SN: 006/24?

This notice has been updated to advise of the discontinuation of Rapid Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) 10Q cassettes.

Situation

As of 30 September 2024, the sale and manufacture of Rapid fFN 10Q cassettes ceased. There is limited supply in a number of NSW Maternity facilities, and many sites have already depleted their stock. All remaining supplies will expire in November 2025. An alternative product, Actim Partus, remains available for ordering.

Background

Fetal Fibronectin is a biomarker test used to help diagnose the risk of premature labour and birth. This assists in clinical decision making to determine if a pregnant woman requires transfer for higher-level care. Rapid fFN tests are quantitative, providing a numerical result that can improve the accuracy of risk assessment for preterm birth.

The test is used as part of the decision-making tool (Appendix 2 – page 14) in the NSW Health Policy Directive *Tiered Networking Arrangements for Perinatal Care in NSW* ([PD2023_035](#)) and NSW Health Guideline *Management of Threatened Preterm Labour* ([GL2022_006](#)).

Assessment

There is a small amount of stock of Rapid fFN 10Q cassettes available within NSW Health maternity facilities which will expire in November 2025.

Recommendations

Assessment and management of women who present with signs and symptoms of threatened preterm labour should continue as per NSW Health Guideline *Management of Threatened Preterm Labour* ([GL2022_006](#)).

Pregnancy Connect Care Coordinators and Medical Leads are to ensure that:

- Any remaining stock is appropriately dispersed within and across Tiered Perinatal Networks (TPN) – consider service capability levels, regional and rural locations and to ensure use of remaining stock by November 2025.
- Rapid fFN 10Q cassettes are not used in asymptomatic women or when transfer of care is not a consideration.

Utilisation of Actim Partus tests:

As Actim Partus tests provide a qualitative result only care must be taken when utilising the *Maternal Transfers Decision Making Tool* (Appendix 2 - [PD2023_035](#)). Consultation with the TPN should occur to assist with care planning and decision making regarding the need for transfer.