Effective 6/26/23, the newly-defined Champlain Toxicology Umbilical Cord Drug Screen panel will be available to Labor and Delivery departments across the UVMHN. This panel can be used to assess select drug exposure to the newborn during pregnancy. It may be useful in settings of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, unexplained neurological symptoms in the newborn, or unexplained obstetric events or complications such as intrauterine growth restriction during the pregnancy, placental abruption or premature labor. The routine TAT is 2-3 days.

Please use this You Tube Link for an instructional video on how to collect the cord sample.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ilwhn2K1uFs

In the circumstance where maternal drug use is suspected please order the Umbilical Cord Drug Screen Hold and send the specimen to the lab. The Umbilical Cord Drug Screen can then be added with the onset of symptoms, as required. The specimen will be held in the lab for 5 days before being discarded.
Umbilical Cord Drug Screen

For ease of ordering, these orderables will be included in an order set and placed on L&D’s preference list. The order panel can be found under Manage Orders and Searching for Umbilical.

When you click on the Order Panel it will bring up both orders for you to choose.

The Umbilical cord Drug Hold will pop up due to Process Instructions.

If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to the UVMMC Medical Director of Clinical Chemistry, Dr. Clayton Wilburn (clayton.wilburn@uvmhealth.org).

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Umbilical Cord Collection for Drug Screen

While wearing appropriate PPE:

1. Cut a piece of umbilical cord that is at least 3 to 5 inches in length. At least the length of your index finger. Champlain Toxicology performs all analyses in duplicate and that length allows them to conduct any needed retesting.

2. With thumb and forefingers, squeeze your way down along the segment of cord. The goal is to evacuate excess blood from the cord. Repeat 2 or 3 times. There may still be some blood in the cord but it should be predominantly tissue and not dripping blood.

3. Rinse this segment with water or saline

4. Pat dry with a clean, lint free towel or gauze.

5. Place the cord into a properly labeled specimen cup and carefully secure the lid. The cup must have two matching identifiers that match any requisition paperwork that accompanies the specimen.

6. Place the labeled cup into a specimen bag with a copy of the requisition for transport to the Laboratory.