Post policy implementation review (PPIR) of rapid fetal fibronectin testing for preterm labour in Alberta

Institute of Health Economics

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Authors’ conclusions
The PPIR suggests that the policy decision to adopt fFN testing in Alberta did not achieve the intended aims of reducing unnecessary utilization of health services to achieve health system savings. Physicians placing greater significance on positive test results compared to negative test results resulted in the inadvertent increase in health care utilization. Hence, when factoring the costs of fFN testing as well, the total cost for the health system increased. If access to fFN testing services is to continue, it is imperative that further education and training be provided to ordering physicians on how to interpret fFN test results along with a mechanism for ongoing management and assessment of fFN testing that can feed back to these clinicians as well as health system managers.

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