

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

**CHAPTER:** 2  
**SECTION:** 21.2  
**TITLE:** FETAL FIBRONECTIN ENZYME IMMUNOASSAY

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**AUTHORITY:** 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

**RELATED AUTHORITY:** 32 CFR 199.4(e)(16)

**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL:** Chapter 5, Section 4.2

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

September 21, 1995

### II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

82731

### III. DESCRIPTION

Fetal fibronectin (fFN) is a protein found in the extracellular matrix of the amniotic membrane. Fetal fibronectin (fFN) is normally found in vaginal secretions until the 20<sup>th</sup> week of gestation. Detection of fFN in vaginal secretions between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy is abnormal and marks the patient at increased risk for preterm delivery. The Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) Enzyme Immunoassay detects the presence of fFN in vaginal secretions and is used as an aid in the assessment of women at increased risk for preterm delivery within 7 to 14 days from the time of the specimen collection.

### IV. POLICY

A. Benefits can be approved for the Fetal Fibronectin Enzyme Immunoassay performed on pregnant women with signs and symptoms of early preterm labor, intact amniotic membranes and minimal cervical dilation (< 3 centimeters), sampled between 24 weeks, 0 days and 34 weeks, 6 days gestation.

B. Preterm labor symptoms include:

1. uterine contractions, with or without pain,
2. intermittent abdominal pain, dull backache,
3. pelvic pressure,

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4. vaginal bleeding in second or third trimester,
5. menstrual-like cramping, with or without diarrhea,
6. change in vaginal discharge, and
7. vague feeling of discomfort or that something is wrong.

**\*END OF POLICY\***