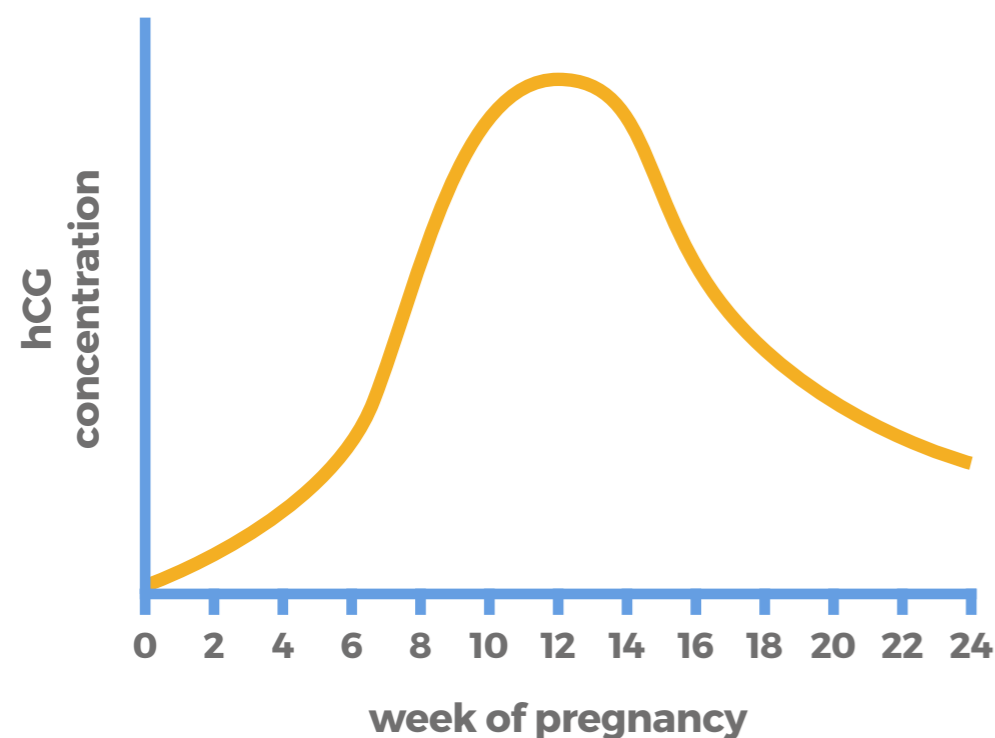


HOW DO PREGNANCY TESTS WORK?

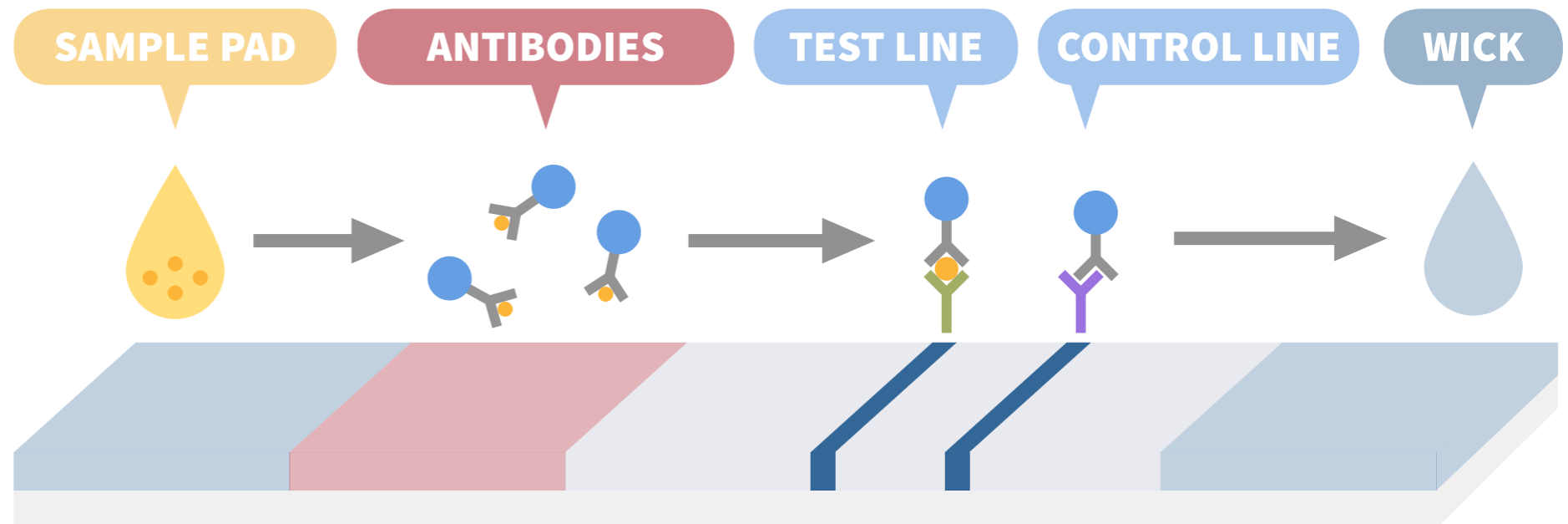
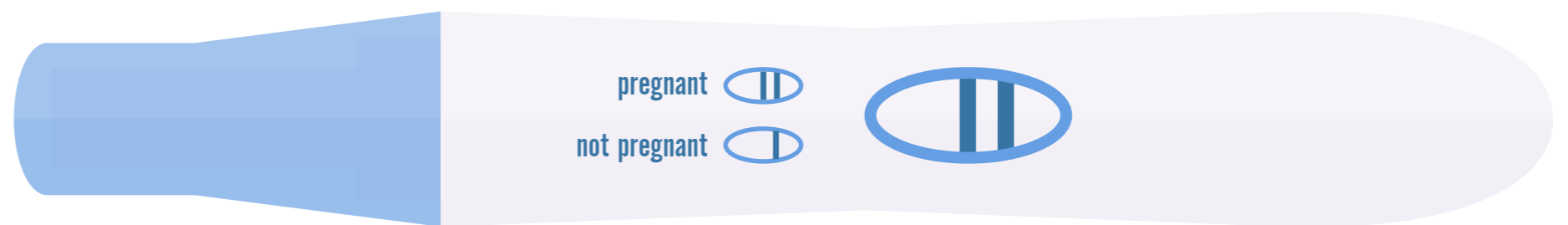
WHAT DO PREGNANCY TESTS DETECT?

Pregnancy tests detect a hormone called human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). This hormone is produced by the placenta from the time at which the embryo attaches to the uterus.



hCG is essential for the function of the corpus luteum, a temporary structure in the ovaries that produces the hormones progesterone and estrogen. It has also been linked to early pregnancy symptoms such as nausea and vomiting. hCG is eliminated in urine and can be detected by pregnancy tests around 9 days after fertilisation.

HOW DO PREGNANCY TESTS WORK?



Urine applied to the sample pad. If a woman is pregnant, urine contains hCG.

hCG binds to mobile antibodies. These antibodies also have an enzyme attached to them.

Immobilised antibodies in the test zone bind to hCG. The enzyme on the first antibody changes the test line colour. Excess antibodies bind to immobilised antibodies in the control zone to show the test worked correctly.

