

ASK FOR THE SCREENING COUNSELLOR AT ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Hamilton

Prenatal Diagnosis
Hamilton Health Sciences
McMaster Campus
1200 Main Street,
Hamilton ON L8N 3Z5
(905) 521-2100 ext 72649

Kingston

Division of Genetics and
Molecular Medicine
Kingston General Hospital
20 Barrie Street,
Kingston ON K7L 3J6
(613) 533-6310

London

Medical Genetics Program of S.W. Ont.
London Health Sciences Centre
800 Commissioners Road East,
London ON N6C 2V5
(519) 685-8140

Mississauga

Genetics Clinic
Credit Valley Hospital
2200 Eglinton Avenue West,
Mississauga ON L5M 2N1
(905) 813-4104

North Bay

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
Genetics Program
681 Commercial Street,
North Bay ON P1B 4E7
(705) 474-1400

North York

North York General Hospital
4001 Leslie Street, 3rd floor, SE Wing
Toronto ON M2K 1E1
(416) 756-6055

Orillia

Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital
170 Colborne Street West,
Orillia ON L3V 2Z3
(705) 327-9154

Oshawa

Genetic Services
Lakeridge Health Corporation
1 Hospital Court,
Oshawa ON L1G 2B9
(905) 433-2733 Fax (905) 721-4757

Ottawa

Eastern Ontario Regional
Genetics Program
401 Smyth Road,
Ottawa ON K1H 8L1
(613) 737-7600 ext 2138

Peterborough

Genetics Program
Peterborough County-City Health Unit
10 Hospital Drive,
Peterborough ON K9J 8M1
(705) 743-1000

Sault Ste. Marie

Algoma District Health Unit
63 East Street, Unit 1,
Sault Ste-Marie ON P6A 3C4
(705) 541-7143

Scarborough

Rouge Valley Health System-Centenary Site
Genetics Clinic
2867 Ellesmere Road,
Scarborough ON M1E 4B9
(416) 281-7425

Sudbury

Sudbury Regional Hospital
Genetics Counselling Services
41 Ramsey Lake Road,
Sudbury ON P3E 5J1
(705) 675-4786

Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay District Health Unit
999 Balmoral Street,
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6E7
(807) 625-5900 ext 5924

Timmins

Porcupine Health Unit
169 Pine Street South,
Timmins ON P4N 8B7
(705) 267-1181

Toronto

Prenatal Diagnosis Program
Mount Sinai Hospital
700 University Avenue - Hydro Building,
Toronto ON M5G 1Z5
(416) 586-4946

Windsor

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Genetics Services
1005 Ouellette Avenue,
Windsor ON N9A 4J8
(519) 258-2146

York

Genetics Clinic
York Central Hospital
10 Trench Street,
Richmond Hill ON L4C 4Z3
(905) 883-2097



Are you
pregnant?

First Trimester
Screening (FTS)

it's your
choice

PRENATAL SCREENING

Every pregnant woman hopes for a healthy baby. Although most babies are healthy, it's normal to wonder about your baby. This pamphlet describes a prenatal screening test called FTS. A screening test does not tell for sure whether or not your baby is healthy. It can tell if you have a lower or higher chance than usual of having a baby with Down syndrome.

It's your choice whether you want to have FTS. Talk to your health care provider before deciding if FTS is right for you.

WHAT IS DOWN SYNDROME?

All people with Down syndrome have mental handicap and some have physical handicaps. They are also more likely to have medical problems. Each person with Down syndrome is different and there is no way to know how serious the mental handicap will be. There is no cure for Down syndrome but resources are available to help persons with Down syndrome and their families.

Any woman at any age can have a baby with Down syndrome. However, the chance increases with a woman's age. For example, a woman who is 40 has a higher chance of having a baby with Down syndrome than a woman who is 20.

CAN PRENATAL SCREENING FIND OTHER PROBLEMS?

Prenatal screening is not designed to find other problems. Occasionally the result of your prenatal screen can tell your health care provider about the possibility of other problems. If this happens, you will receive more information from your health care provider. In some situations, your health care provider will refer you for genetic counselling.

WHAT IS FIRST TRIMESTER SCREENING (FTS)?

FTS is a prenatal screen that uses an early ultrasound and a blood test to give your chance of having a baby with Down syndrome in this pregnancy.

HOW IS FTS DONE?

You make an appointment with your health care provider as early as possible to discuss FTS.

If you decide to have FTS, an ultrasound is arranged between 11 weeks and 13 weeks + 6 days of pregnancy. The ultrasound is used to check the age of the baby and to measure the nuchal translucency (NT). The NT is the thickness of the skin at the back of the neck of the developing baby.

Next, you have a blood test to measure levels of a protein and hormone that occur naturally in pregnancy. The blood test is also done between 11 weeks and 13 weeks + 6 days of pregnancy and usually after the ultrasound. It can even be done on the same day.

An FTS result is sent to your health care provider only after the ultrasound AND blood test are done.

WHAT DOES A 'SCREEN POSITIVE' RESULT MEAN?

About 5 in 100 women will have a 'screen positive' result. If your result is 'screen positive', the chance that your baby might have Down syndrome is higher than usual. A 'screen positive' result can cause worry. However, most women with a screen positive result do not have a baby with Down syndrome.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE RESULT IS 'SCREEN POSITIVE'?

If your result is 'screen positive', deciding what to do next can be difficult. Your health care provider will discuss your result with you. You may also be referred to a genetic counsellor. Both can explain your result and tell you about your choices for more testing. Only more testing can tell you if your baby really has Down syndrome.

DO I WANT MORE TESTING?

If your result is 'screen positive', you can choose whether you want more testing to find out if the baby really has Down syndrome. You will be offered chorionic villus sampling (CVS) or amniocentesis. During CVS, a small piece of the placenta is taken and tested for Down syndrome. During amniocentesis, a small amount of fluid is taken from the area around the baby and tested for Down syndrome. CVS will cause a miscarriage in about one out of every 100 women who have it. Amniocentesis will cause a miscarriage in about one out of every 200 women who have it.

Most times, amniocentesis or CVS will show that your baby does not have Down syndrome.

