

Sgrinio Cyn Geni Cymru
Antenatal Screening Wales

Introduction to antenatal screening tests

Your choices in pregnancy



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www.antenatalscreening.wales.nhs.uk

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During your pregnancy, you will be offered a number of different screening tests. This leaflet contains important information about antenatal screening and testing. The information in this leaflet will help you decide whether to have, or not have, some or all of the tests. You will have the chance to talk about the tests with your midwife.

The NHS keeps the results of all tests confidential. Hospital policies vary on how many people have access to your test results.

Your midwife will be able to explain the local arrangements that will apply to you.

Your NHS number is unique to you and this number identifies you on NHS computer systems. If you have a copy of your NHS number, please have the number available when you first see the midwife or go to the hospital for your maternity care.



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What are screening tests?

Screening tests can help to detect some of the conditions that may affect either you or your baby. They do not show for certain whether you or your baby are affected. They show what chance there is that you or your baby are affected.

Sometimes the blood test can give an unclear result and further tests may be needed.

If the result of a screening test shows you, or your baby, have a higher chance of having a certain condition, you may be offered further screening or an invasive test e.g amniocentesis. Invasive tests give more certain results, but with some there is a risk of miscarriage. For this reason, these tests are only offered where there is a higher chance of having a condition. You can find information on these tests in a separate leaflet.

Screening tests can miss the condition they are screening for. The midwife

can tell you how often this can happen with the tests.

What tests are available?

You will be offered the following screening tests.

Usually between 11 to 14 weeks

An ultrasound scan to see:

- how many weeks pregnant you are
- if the baby's heart is beating, and
- if you are having more than one baby.

In early pregnancy, usually before 14 weeks

You will be offered blood tests to detect:

- infections that could harm your baby, these are HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis
- your blood group and Rhesus D group, and whether there are any antibodies in your blood, and

- certain blood disorders which are inherited, such as sickle cell and thalassaemia.

All of these tests can be taken at the same time. You can choose which tests are carried out. Your midwife will tell you where the tests can be done.

Testing for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome

You can have a test to find out your chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome and your chance of having a baby with Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome. The test can often be done as part of the ultrasound scan offered to you when you are between 11 and 14 weeks pregnant.

You would also need to have a blood test on the same day.

If you go to the scan appointment and you are more than 14 weeks pregnant, you can have a blood test to find out

your chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome. This is normally carried out between 15 and 18 weeks of pregnancy.

At 18 to 20 weeks

You can have an ultrasound scan to see if there are any problems with the way your baby is developing.

Deciding if you want to have the tests

It can be difficult to decide what tests to have. Some women do not want to know if they have any infections that could affect the baby or if there are problems with the way the baby is developing. Others want to know so they can protect their baby against infections or, if there are major problems with the baby, they can think about whether to prepare for the birth or consider ending the pregnancy.

Take time to think before you decide. You can talk about the tests with your midwife and doctor, and ask any questions you may have. There are also leaflets available in this pack with more information about each test and there is a film clip available to give you more information about the screening for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome. You should watch this before you see your midwife for the first time. The film clip is available from www.antenatalscreening.wales.nhs.uk/public/home.



When you have chosen which tests you want to have, the midwife will make arrangements for you. She will also explain how you will get the results. The results of all screening tests are confidential.

If you change your mind

You can change your mind about your choices.

If you decide to have a test and then change your mind before you have the test, please remember to tell your midwife so she can make a note in your maternity records.

If you move home

If you move home during your pregnancy, please tell your midwife so that she can update your medical records.

Please remember that:

- you choose which tests you want to have
- no test will be done unless you agree, and
- if you do not come for a test, you will not be sent a reminder.

More information

In your folder, you should have leaflets about:

- infections and pregnancy
- your blood group and pregnancy
- ultrasound scans in pregnancy
- screening for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome in pregnancy, and
- screening for sickle cell and thalassaemia in pregnancy.

You can also get information about screening tests from your midwife or your hospital doctor (your obstetrician) and from the Antenatal Screening Wales website at: www.antenatalscreening.wales.nhs.uk

Private tests

The quality of the screening offered by the NHS in Wales is monitored. Some women pay privately to have screening tests. Screening done by private clinics is not monitored by the NHS. This means that your midwife will have no information about the quality and accuracy of any screening tests carried out by private clinics.

Your antenatal screening choices

Please use this form to make a record of your choices about what tests you want to have (antenatal screening choices).

Test	Yes, I am interested in having this test.	No, I am not interested in having this test.	I don't know. I would like more information.
Early pregnancy ultrasound scan			
Screening for HIV			
Screening for hepatitis B			
Screening for syphilis			
Screening for blood group and antibodies			
Screening for sickle cell and thalassaemia			
Screening for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome			
Fetal anomaly ultrasound scan			

CARIS is the Welsh Congenital Anomaly Register and Information Service.

CARIS collects information about conditions that affect the way babies develop in pregnancy. These conditions are called congenital anomalies, malformations or birth defects. They include Down's syndrome, heart defects or cleft lip.

It is very important to know more about these sorts of conditions and their causes.

CARIS uses the information to find out how common these conditions are. The information CARIS collects also helps to show how good the health service is at picking up these conditions and is used for planning future services.

If it is suspected from your screening tests that there are these types of conditions with your pregnancy, the midwife or doctor will pass information about this to CARIS.

The information held on the CARIS register is strictly confidential. We will never pass your name to anyone else or publish it.

If you want more information on Public Health Wales privacy notice please visit:-

www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/47400

Or write to:

The Data Protection Officer
Public Health Wales NHS Trust
2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street
Cardiff, CF10 4BZ