



How to Offer Prenatal Screening



KEY POINTS

- Screening is not diagnostic
- All testing is optional
- Screening does not test for “everything”

Questions for your patient to consider

- How important is it for you to know if your baby is at increased risk of having a chromosome change that could affect your baby’s health and development?
- If your screen result is positive, how likely are you to consider additional testing (NIPT or invasive diagnostic testing)?
- How useful would it be for you to know about a chromosome change before your baby’s birth in order to prepare?
- What are your thoughts about continuing or ending your pregnancy if your baby has a chromosome change?
- How would knowing/not knowing affect you emotionally throughout the pregnancy?

Counselling Points to Consider

- All testing in pregnancy is your choice
- A negative screen result does **not** guarantee the birth of a baby with no health concerns
- A positive screen result does **not** mean the pregnancy is affected. It means that the chance is increased above the accepted cut-off
- If screen results are positive, additional testing will be offered
- The decision about screening will not affect your care
- All pregnant people have a chance for trisomy 21, 18 and 13, not just those of advanced age

Looking for more information?

Find additional screening resources and educational materials at:

www.prenatalscreeningontario.ca