

CHANGES TO PRENATAL GENETIC SCREENING

GUIDANCE FROM YOUR PRENATAL GENETICS CLINIC

BOTTOM LINE: Prenatal screening services in our region are changing.

- **As of July 1st, 2016**, CHEO's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory will no longer be providing prenatal genetic screening (i.e. Integrated Prenatal Screening, First Trimester Screening, and Maternal Serum Screening). Blood samples and requisitions with nuchal translucency measurements will now be sent to Mount Sinai Hospital (MSH) in Toronto for analysis. A **new requisition** (MSH) will be required to order testing.
- If your patient receives a positive prenatal screening result and would like an appointment in the Prenatal Genetics Clinic at CHEO, **you must now refer** her to the Genetics Clinic (there will no longer be 'automatic referrals' to the Genetics Department).
- **The Prenatal Genetics Clinic encourages all providers to move toward offering patients First Trimester Screening (FTS) rather than Integrated Prenatal Screening (IPS).** Earlier screening results allow women with a positive screen to access genetic counselling and/or non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) as a secondary screen or diagnostic testing sooner in her pregnancy.
- MSH is working toward offering enhanced First Trimester Screening (eFTS), which is expected to perform comparably to IPS. **Once eFTS is available, IPS will no longer be available.** Maternal Serum Screening (2nd trimester) will continue to be available for patients presenting to care at later gestations.
- NIPT is still available as a primary prenatal screen for women who meet Category I* eligibility criteria.