



Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Memorandum

Date December 5, 2017
To Health Care Providers in Southwestern Ontario
From Maternal Serum Screening Laboratory (Dr. Angela Rutledge) and Medical Genetics Program (Dr. Victoria Siu) at London Health Sciences Centre

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Changes to Prenatal Screening in Southwestern Ontario Effective January 29, 2018

- 1) Integrated Prenatal Screening (IPS) is being phased out in Ontario. Do not begin IPS after January 29, 2018. It will be replaced with Enhanced First Trimester Screening (eFTS).
- 2) Prenatal serum screening for Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) will transition from London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) to North York General Hospital (NYGH) in Toronto.
- 3) As of January 29, 2018, all new serum screening samples from southwestern Ontario should be sent to NYGH for analysis with an NYGH requisition form. The following prenatal screening tests will be available:

eFTS: Comprised of a nuchal translucency (NT) ultrasound measurement plus 4 first trimester maternal serum markers. Replaces IPS and has a comparable detection rate for Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome), with results available in the first trimester. Performed at 11w0d to 13w6d.

Serum eFTS: Comprised of 4 first trimester maternal serum markers. Done if no NT ultrasound is available; however it is recommended to include the NT measurement when possible as it improves the performance of eFTS. Performed at 11w0d to 13w6d.

Maternal Serum Screening (MSS) (Quad): Comprised of 4 second trimester maternal serum markers. For patients who miss the time window for eFTS. Performed at 14w0d to 20w6d.

Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT): Advanced screening test based on cell-free fetal DNA in maternal blood. Funded by the MOH for women who meet specific high-risk criteria. Performed after 10 weeks gestational age.

- 4) The Medical Genetics Program of Southwestern Ontario will continue to provide prenatal counselling and diagnostic testing for Trisomy 21.

NEW:

- 1) eFTS requires only ONE blood sample collected between 11w0d and 13w6d AFTER the NT ultrasound. The NT measurement should be recorded on the requisition form. If the NT measurement is not provided to the NYGH lab by the time the serum markers have been analyzed, the report will be generated without the NT measurement and will not be amended later to include it. No second trimester blood sample will be drawn or analyzed for eFTS.
- 2) Use the NYGH requisition form when ordering prenatal screening at NYGH. Additional screening information and the NYGH requisition form can be accessed at: www.nygh.on.ca/genetics/mss
- 3) Prenatal screening results will be faxed. Ensure your contact information is correct and legible.

CONTINUE:

- 1) To order ultrasound for dating and NT measurement prior to prenatal serum screening.
- 2) To offer MSS (Quad) to patients presenting in the second trimester.

FAQ

What if IPS is already in progress prior to the January 29, 2018 transition date?

LHSC will continue to accept IPS-2 samples until March 5, 2018.

How important is the clinical information requested on the requisition form?

ALL of this information is ESSENTIAL for accurate risk assessment.

What is the recommended screen for spina bifida/open neural tube defects?

A fetal anatomical ultrasound at 18 to 20 weeks gestation.

How will my patient's blood sample and requisition form get to NYGH?

Blood collection centres across southwestern Ontario have been notified and will route prenatal screening samples to the appropriate lab.

You may order eFTS instead of IPS prior to January 29, 2018, if desired. If an NYGH requisition form is used and the blood is collected at LifeLabs or Dynacare, those labs will send the sample to NYGH.

What if my patient receives a positive prenatal screening result?

You may order NIPT as an MOH-funded test for women with a positive prenatal screen. Alternatively, you may continue to refer patients with positive screens to the Prenatal Genetics clinics in London (fax 519-685-8214) or Windsor (fax 519-977-2216).

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Lab-Related: LHSC Maternal Serum Screening Laboratory: 519-667-6592, option 1
 NYGH Maternal Serum Screening Laboratory: 416-756-6055, extension 3
Clinical: LHSC Medical Genetics Prenatal Clerk: 519-685-8500, extension 52571,
 ask to speak with a prenatal screening genetic counsellor