



Noninvasive Prenatal Screening (NIPS)

What is NIPS?

- NIPS is an optional and simple blood test that is completed from 10 weeks of gestation onward.
- During pregnancy, small pieces of DNA from the placenta circulate in the mother's blood- this test measures these pieces to provide an estimation of the chance of the baby having certain chromosomal conditions.
- This is a safe, highly accurate blood screening test.

What does it test for?

- This test screens for Trisomy 13, 18, and 21.
- It also provides the baby's sex, if you want to know.

What it does NOT test for:

- Physical birth defects (spina bifida, heart defects, cleft lip)
- Most genetic conditions
- It does NOT replace an ultrasound or diagnostic test

How accurate is NIPS?

- This is the most accurate screening test available for Down syndrome, finding about 99 out of 100 affected pregnancies.
- It is a screening test, NOT a diagnosis. It tells you the chance, not the answer. Therefore, any positive results must be confirmed before any decisions are determined.