

Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
PRENATAL BIOCHEMISTRY LAB**PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING SERUM SAMPLES:
Off-Site Collection (1st and 2nd Trimester samples)**

The Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory has replaced the **Triple Screen** testing with **Quad Screen** testing: (**MS-AFP, uE3, hCG, Inhibin A**). This testing is done between 14 and 20+6 weeks gestation. **Integrated Screening** is now also available which involves two samples – one collected in each of the first and second trimester of pregnancy.

Testing Available:

- **Test Name: Quad Screen**
Synonyms: Triple Marker Screen (TMS), Maternal Serum Screen, MS-AFP
- **Test Name: Serum Integrated Prenatal Screen (SIPS) Part 1 / Part 2**
Synonyms: Part 1 (9+0 to 13+6 weeks), Part 2 (15+0 to 20+6 weeks), IPS, Integrated Screening
- **Test Name: Maternal Serum AFP Only**
Synonyms: OSB testing only (not full Quad Screen). Done only by special request of the physician

Specimen type and volume for all tests above:

- One 5 ml SST tubes or two 3.5 ml SST tubes.
- 3 ml serum aliquot from non-SST clot.
- Plasma is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Specimen handling for all tests above:

- Label samples with at least 3 unique identifiers (i.e.: Name, PHN, DOB)
- Centrifuge to separate serum:
 - Serum samples from non-SST tubes must be aliquoted within **24 hours**.
- Store sample (spun SST or serum aliquot) until shipment as follows:
 - Samples at **4°C (on ice-pack)** must be received at Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory within **4 days** of collection.
 - If shipment delay is expected due to holidays/weekends/distance, serum must be aliquoted and frozen until shipped on dry ice. Avoid repeated freeze-thawing.

****THESE SAMPLES ARE TIME-SENSITIVE FOR THE PRENATAL CARE OF THESE PATIENTS.** Ensure the samples are delivered to Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory as soon as possible.

- Send sample with completed **Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory Requisition** to:

Attn C&W Central Processing for Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory
Department of Pathology, **RM 2J17**
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
4480 Oak St, Vancouver, BC, V6H 3V4
Ph (604) 875-2331 Fax (604) 875-3008