PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PRENATAL CHEMISTRY SERUM SPECIMENS
(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 15 and 20+6 weeks gestation. Integrated Screening is also now available, which involves two samples – one collected in each of the first and second trimesters of pregnancy.

THESE SAMPLES ARE TIME-SENSITIVE FOR THE PRENATAL CARE OF THESE PATIENTS.

Please ensure the samples are delivered to Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory within 4 days. See handling below to identify the quickest option for your laboratory.

Please include a completed Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory Requisition with each sample.

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 (10 to 13+6 weeks), Part 2 (14 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 and send samples in original SST tube at 4 °C (on ice-pack)
- Serum samples from non-SST tubes must be aliquoted within 24 hours by ref. lab.
- Send samples with completed Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory Requisition to:

  Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory: Attn Specimen Receiving
  Department of Pathology, RM 2J20
  Children’s & Women’s Health Centre of BC
  4500 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, V6H 3N1
  Ph (604) 875-2331 Fax (604) 875-3008

- Samples (SST or aliquot) at 4°C must be received at Prenatal Biochemistry Lab within 4 days.
- Samples delayed over 4 days due to holidays/weekends must be frozen for shipping on dry ice as soon as possible. (SST tubes must be first aliquoted.)