

November 5, 2015

NON-INVASIVE PRENATAL TESTING (NIPT) ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Health Care Provider,

You are receiving this announcement letter because you have previously ordered prenatal genetic screening for your patient(s).

Funding for Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) has been approved by the BC Ministry of Health effective immediately for women who meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Has received a Positive Screen result from IPS, SIPS, or Quad; OR**
- 2) Has had a previous trisomic pregnancy; OR**
- 3) Has a risk of Down syndrome greater than 1 in 300 based on results of screening and ultrasound marker of aneuploidy**

Funding is available for NIPT analysis of Trisomy 21, 13, 18 and sex aneuploidy. Microdeletion testing is not funded.

In the next 4-6 months, the BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program will be implementing funded NIPT for women who meet the above criteria through a coordinated provincial approach. We will send you more information once operations are in place and will keep our website up to date. Visit us regularly for NIPT messages. www.bcprenatalscreening.ca.

In the meantime, funded NIPT can be accessed through the current suppliers:

- Gamma Dynacare / Dynacare Next / Ariosa – for the Harmony NIPT test <http://www.ariosadx.com>
- Lifelabs – for the Panorama NIPT test <http://www.natera.com>

Both NIPT lab requisitions can be accessed via our website:

[http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/screening/prenatal-genetic/non-invasive-prenatal-testing-\(nipt\)](http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/screening/prenatal-genetic/non-invasive-prenatal-testing-(nipt))

Follow these steps to order NIPT:

Indication # 1: Women with a positive screen

An authorization code will be supplied to you by the C&W Prenatal Biochemistry Screening Lab. You will receive this authorization code along with your patient's positive screen lab result. This authorization code is patient-specific and must be added to the patient's NIPT lab requisition to ensure that the patient will not have to pay at the time of blood collection. Further details will be provided at the time of reporting a positive screen patient.

Indications #2 and #3: Previous trisomic pregnancy; increased risk based on U/S marker(s) of aneuploidy (e.g. nuchal thickness \geq 6 mm, echogenic bowel)

A referral to the Vancouver or Victoria Medical Genetics depts. is required to access funded NIPT. Consultation via Telehealth is an option for those patients.

How will I receive my patient's funded NIPT result?

NIPT results will be faxed directly to the ordering MD/MW listed on the NIPT lab requisition. Results should be available 7-10 days after blood collection. (As with all other BC prenatal genetic screens, NIPT results will also be shared with the BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program for provincial outcome data purposes).

What if my patient's NIPT result is negative / or low risk?

If a patient has a positive IPS/SIPS/Quad result, but a negative NIPT result and normal ultrasound, the residual risk of a chromosomal abnormality is small (approximately 0.5%) and the patient should be reassured.

What if my patient's NIPT result is positive / or high risk?

Because NIPT does have some false positives, it is imperative that *all positive NIPT results are confirmed via an amniocentesis or CVS for rapid aneuploidy screening and cytogenetic analysis prior to any irrevocable obstetrical decision.*

What if the NIPT result comes back “uninterpretable” or “repeat sample collection is needed”?

The patient should be offered an amniocentesis, or a referral to Medical Genetics to discuss her options.

What about women who are not defined as high risk as per the above 3 criteria but who are interested in NIPT?

These women will continue to have the option of self-pay NIPT via the locations listed on our website: [http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/screening/prenatal-genetic/non-invasive-prenatal-testing-\(nipt\)](http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/screening/prenatal-genetic/non-invasive-prenatal-testing-(nipt))

For more clinical questions, please contact:

- 1) A genetic counsellor at the C&W Prenatal Biochemistry Screening Lab – Phone: 604-875-2331
- 2) The Medical Genetics depts. at BC Women's Hospital – Phone: 604-875-2157, or Victoria General Hospital – Phone: 250-727-446.

For administrative Program issues, please contact:

BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program – Phone: 604-877-2121