

February 22, 2016

NON-INVASIVE PRENATAL TESTING (NIPT) UPDATE

Dear Health Care Provider,

This is an update letter from our previous November 2015 NIPT funding announcement. As you may know, funding for Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) is available for women who meet three specific indications as described below.

WHAT IS NEW?

The BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program has selected Dynacare, provider of the Harmony test, as the sole vendor for funded NIPT for these women. A special requisition has been developed for ordering funded NIPT and is attached. It can also be downloaded from our website at www.bcprenatalscreening.ca. Collection sites have been set up for the Dynacare Harmony test, and more are in development. The current list of sites is attached and will be kept updated on our website. Dynacare will no longer provide at home collection by a nurse for funded NIPT eligible patients.

Follow these steps to order NIPT for eligible women:

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. The requisition must be completed fully and must be signed by the ordering health care provider to avoid delays in results. Dynacare will not process the sample unless all the information requested is provided and the requisition is signed.

Indication #2: Previous trisomic pregnancy

If your patient has a history of a previous child or pregnancy with trisomy 21, 18 or 13, 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.

Indication #3: Risk greater than 1 in 300 based on serum screening result and ultrasound marker.

If your patient has:

1. NTh \geq 6 mm), echogenic bowel (brightness \geq bone), absent nasal bone (second trimester), or aberrant right subclavian artery;
2. More than one marker of aneuploidy;
3. EICF or pyelectasis (renal pelvic diameter 5-10 mm) with risk of Down syndrome from SIPS/IPS/Quad \geq 1 in 900; or
4. Femur/foot ratio \leq 0.9 with risk of Down syndrome from SIPS/IPS/Quad \geq 1 in 550;

then a referral to the Vancouver or Victoria Medical Genetics departments is required for assessment to determine if the patient is eligible for funded NIPT.

How will I receive my patient's (funded) NIPT result from Dynacare?

NIPT results will be faxed directly to the ordering MD/MW listed on the NIPT lab requisition. Results should be available 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*. A Dynacare genetic counsellor will contact the ordering MD/MW to discuss the positive NIPT result.

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

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

What about women who do not have one of the three above indications 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: www.bcprenatalscreening.ca.

Contact Information

For 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: 250-727-4461.

For administrative program issues, please contact: BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program,
Phone: 604-877-2121

For NIPT Harmony questions, please contact a genetic counsellor at Dynacare,
Phone: 1-888-988-1888 (5:30 am to 5:00 pm PST)

Funded NIPT Collection Sites

All collection sites are outpatient labs. The patient does not need an appointment, but the requisition must be completed fully, including the authorization code, and must be signed by the ordering health care provider to avoid delays in results.

Fraser Health

Abbotsford Regional Hospital

32900 Marshal Road, Abbotsford, 604-851-4700 ext. 644851

Royal Columbian Hospital

330 E Columbia Street, New Westminster, 604-520-4300

Surrey Memorial Hospital

13750 96th Avenue, Surrey, 604-588-3324

Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre

9750 140th Street, Surrey, 604-582-4555

Vancouver Coastal Health

St. Paul's Hospital

Providence Building, 2nd Floor, 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, 604-806-8626

BC Children's and BC Women's

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, 604-875-2345 Ext 5210 or 604-875-2139

Powell River General Hospital

5000 Joyce Avenue, Powell River, 604-485-3266

Island Health

Victoria General Hospital

1 Hospital Way, Victoria, 250-370-8355 or 1-866-370-8355

Interior Health

Cariboo Memorial Hospital

517 North 6th Avenue, Williams Lake, 250-302-3215

East Kootenay Regional Hospital

13 24 Avenue N, Cranbrook, 250-426-5281 or 1-866-288-8082

Kelowna General Hospital

2268 Pandosy Street, Kelowna, 250-862-4407

Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital

1200 Hospital Bench, Trail, 250-364-3401

Kootenay Lake District Hospital

3 View Street, Nelson, 250-354-2325

Penticton Regional Hospital

550 Carmi Avenue, Penticton, 250-492-9014

Royal Inland Hospital

311 Columbia Street, Kamloops, 250-314-2689

Northern Health

Dawson Creek and District Hospital

11100 13th Street, Dawson Creek, 250-784-7340

Fort Nelson General Hospital

5315 Liard Street, Fort Nelson, 250-774-8100

Fort St. John General Hospital

8407 112 Avenue, Fort St. John, 250-261-7616

G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital

543 Front Street, Quesnel, 250-991-7580

Prince Rupert Regional Hospital

1305 Summit Avenue, Prince Rupert, 250-622-6173