

## **Ordering Funded Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening (NIPS)**

Updated: Aug 2023

### **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 on your patient's positive screen report. This authorization code is patient-specific and must be added to the patient's NIPS 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 and the patient 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, an *authorization code* can be obtained by calling the C&W Prenatal Biochemistry Lab genetic counsellor at 604-875-2331. Should your patient require further counselling to compare all options available to her, a referral to Medical Genetics (Vancouver or Victoria) should be offered.

### **Indication #3: Risk greater than 1 in 300 based on serum screening result and one of the following ultrasound markers.**

If trisomy 21 risk is equal or greater than 1 in 300, an *authorization code* can be obtained by calling Medical Genetics (Vancouver or Victoria).

1. Nuchal thickness  $\geq$  6 mm;
2. Echogenic bowel (brightness  $\geq$  bone);
3. Absent nasal bone (second trimester);
4. Aberrant right subclavian artery;
5. More than one marker of aneuploidy;

Down syndrome risk can be calculated using the Trisomy21 risk calculator. For more information consult Appendix 5 of the Prenatal Genetic screening guidelines.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **1. How will I receive my patient's (funded) NIPS result from Dynacare?**

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

### **2. What if my patient's NIPS result is negative or low risk?**

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

**3. What if my patient's NIPS result is positive or high risk?**

Because NIPS does have some false positives, it is imperative that *all positive NIPS 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 NIPS result.

**4. What if the NIPS 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.

**5. What about women who do not have one of the three above indications but who are interested in NIPS?**

These women have the option of self-pay NIPS.

**6. Contact Information**

a. For *clinical questions*, please contact:

**Genetic Counsellor**

C&W Prenatal Biochemistry Screening Lab  
Phone: 604-875-2331  
Fax: 604-875-3008

**Medical Genetics Departments**

BC Women's Hospital  
- Phone: 604-875-2157  
- Fax: 604-875-2825

Victoria General Hospital

- Phone: 250-727-4461  
- Fax: 250-727-4295

b. For *administrative program issues*, please contact: BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program,  
Phone: 604-877-2121, Ext 223772

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