BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program

Perinatal Services BC
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Ordering Funded Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (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. 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 ≥ 6 mm), echogenic bowel (brightness ≥ 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 ≥ 1 in 900; or
4. Femur/foot ratio ≤0.9 with risk of Down syndrome from SIPS/IPS/Quad ≥ 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **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).

2. **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.

West Tower, 350-555 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 3X7
Phone: 604-877-2121 | Fax: 604-872-1987 | Email: psbc@phsa.ca | Web: bcprenatalscreening.ca

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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 at www.bcprenatalscreening.ca.

6. **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)