

Screening for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome

An **easy guide** to screening tests when you are pregnant



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Your choice

NHS

Screening for Down's syndrome,
Edwards' syndrome
and Patau's syndrome

An easy guide to screening tests when you are pregnant



This booklet has information about tests you can have.

The tests can find conditions early but they may not find every condition.

If we find a condition we can give you information or tell you about treatment for you or your baby.

Your midwife should read this booklet with you. You can ask your midwife questions at any time.

YES

NO



The tests show if your baby might have Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome.

You can choose if you want to have the tests or not.



The tests can help you make choices about your care when you are pregnant.

If you are worried, you can talk to your midwife or doctor.

About these tests

PRIVATE

We will keep your test results private.

We only show the results of the tests to health staff who need to see them.



It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor about any health problems you have.

You can ask your midwife questions at any time.



It is rare for a baby to have Down's syndrome.

It is very rare for a baby to have Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome.

You can choose to have a test for all 3 conditions when you are between 10 and 14 weeks pregnant.



If you choose to have the test you might want someone to come with you for support. This could be your partner, a friend, relative or key worker.



There are 2 parts to the test.

1. We take a small amount of blood from your arm.



2. We scan your tummy.

The scan takes a photo of your baby.

The test does not hurt your baby.

This test can find out if there is a chance your baby will have:

- Down's syndrome
- Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome



The test cannot tell for certain if your baby will have one of these conditions. The test can only tell if there is a higher chance or a lower chance.

If you have the test you may want someone to come with you for support. This could be your partner, a friend, relative or key worker.



A baby born with Down's syndrome will have learning disabilities.

This means they will find it harder to understand and to learn new things.

We cannot know how much of a learning disability they will have.



Most children with Down's syndrome will go to their local primary school.

Many people with Down's syndrome have jobs and can live on their own.



People with Down's syndrome can have other health problems.

Some of these problems might be serious.

Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome



Most babies with Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome die before they are born or soon after they are born.



All babies with Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome have some very serious health conditions.

Test results

There are 2 possible results if you choose to have the screening test when you are between 10 and 14 weeks pregnant.

Lower chance result



The test might show your baby has a **lower chance** of having Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome.

If it does then someone will contact you in **2 weeks**.

Higher chance result



The test might show your baby has a **higher chance** of having one of these conditions.

If it does then someone will contact you in **3 working days**.



They will talk to you about the choices you have for more tests.

If you get a higher chance result from your screening test you will then have **3 choices**.

You can ask your midwife questions at any time.

YES

NO



Choice 1: You can have **no more tests**.

YES

NO



Choice 2: You can have a **second screening test called NIPT**.

NIPT is a very accurate test. In most cases it gives the correct result in telling you if your baby has one of these conditions or not.

But it does not tell you for certain.

YES

NO



Choice 3: You can have a **different type of test** called a diagnostic test.

This is the only way to find out for certain if your baby has Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome or not.

There is a small chance a diagnostic test will make you miscarry.



If you find out for certain your baby has Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome then you can decide to carry on with the pregnancy or have an abortion.

Your midwife or doctor can give you support to decide whether or not to have an abortion.

This is your choice.



You can speak to your midwife at any time if you have any questions.

And you should tell your midwife if you move house.

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Find out how Public Health England and the NHS use and protect your screening information at www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data.

Public Health England (PHE) created this leaflet on behalf of the NHS