

# 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



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.



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.



They 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 test to health staff who need to see them.



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



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.

If you are between 10 and 14 weeks pregnant you can have a test for all 3 conditions.



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.

These tests do not hurt your baby.

These 2 tests can find out if there is a chance your baby will have:

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

The tests cannot tell for sure if your baby will have one of these conditions.

The tests can only tell if there is a higher chance or a lower chance.

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



If your baby has a higher chance of having one of these conditions then someone will contact you in 3 working days.

If your baby has a lower chance of one of these conditions then someone will contact you in 2 weeks.



If there is a higher chance that your baby has one of these conditions we can give you another test to find out for sure if your baby has one of these conditions or not.

**YES**

**NO**



This second test has a small chance of making you miscarry. If you miscarry then your baby dies.

You can say no to this test.





If your baby has one of these conditions you and your baby's father can decide to carry on with the pregnancy or have an abortion.

An abortion means your baby dies. We will give you support to decide whether or not to have an abortion.

This is your decision.



**New home**

It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor if you move home.

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Photosymbols – calendar (pages 4 and 8), GP on phone (page 8), house move (page 9)

Down's Syndrome Association – page 6

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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](http://www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data).

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