



Routine Obstetrical Laboratory Tests

The following tests are our recommended routine, it is always your personal choice on which tests are most appropriate for you and the midwives welcome discussion if there are any that you would choose not to obtain.

The CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) code* located in parentheses after each laboratory test, accurately describes medical, surgical, and diagnostic services and is designed to communicate uniform information about medical services and procedures. The CPT code is used by insurers to determine the reimbursement to the midwife. If you provide this code to your insurer, they will tell you what part of the charge they will pay and how much you may be responsible for at that time.

Prenatal Panel

Laboratory testing obtained at your first obstetrical visit is directed toward obtaining information about your immunity or presence of infection that could affect the fetus' health.

The Obstetrical Panel (80055) is made up of a number of blood tests that are specific to pregnancy:

- **Rubella antibody test (measles)** – Rubella is a contagious infection. If you are not immune to and are exposed or become ill with measles during your pregnancy there could be an impact upon the fetus.
- **Hepatitis B screen**- Hepatitis B is a viral infection where a person can be a carrier of the disease, and yet be asymptomatic. The virus can be passed through the bloodstream of a mother with hepatitis B, infecting the fetus. Infants born to mothers known to carry hepatitis B can receive medication as well as immunizations at birth as a means to significantly reduce their risk of acquiring hepatitis B.
- **Blood type/screen**- This typing and screening will determine the mother's blood type, Rh factor, as well as the presence of any atypical antibodies that may affect the pregnancy.
- **Complete blood count**- We also check for anemia by measuring hemoglobin, the amount of oxygen-carrying protein in the blood, and hematocrit, the percentage of red blood cells in a given volume of whole blood.
- **Syphilis detection test**-The rapid plasma regain test (RPR) screens for and diagnoses infection with the bacteria that causes syphilis, a sexually transmitted infection that can be transmitted to your baby through the placenta or by contact with a sore during birth

*CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.



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Pap Smear (88142)

A thorough health evaluation during the first trimester also includes a pelvic exam (76857, 76856) to obtain a pap smear if indicated, which screens for cervical cancer.

GC, DNA (87591) & CT, DNA (87491)

Chlamydia and gonorrhea cultures may be obtained as well during the first trimester. Infection with Chlamydia or gonorrhea can impact the health of the pregnancy as well as the newborn.

Urine Culture (87086)

A urine culture will be obtained to test for the presence of infection that may have been undetected in the mother.

Glucose and Hemoglobin/Hematocrit (82947, 85027)

Screening for diabetes is essential despite lack of family history or personal risk factors for diabetes. This test, which measures the amount of sugar in the blood, is typically performed at 28 weeks of pregnancy (82957). We also check for anemia again at this time by measuring hemoglobin, the amount of oxygen-carrying protein in the blood, and hematocrit, the percentage of red blood cells in a given volume of whole blood. Both hemoglobin and hematocrit levels are ordered as part of the complete blood cell count (CBC, 85027).

Group B Strep (87653)

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as the Centers for Disease Control recommend during the 35th to 37th week of pregnancy, screening for the presence of Group B streptococcal bacteria that may be harbored in the mother's vagina. The bacterium typically does not cause disease for the mother but can cause problems for the newborn. If detected, the mother will receive intravenous antibiotics to protect the new born.



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Types of Special Screening Tests

First Trimester Screen (Ultrasound-76813, Component Blood Tests-36416, 84702, 84163)

The first trimester screen is a new, optional noninvasive evaluation that combines a maternal blood screening test with an ultrasound evaluation of the fetus to identify risk for specific chromosomal abnormalities, including Down's syndrome, Trisomy 13/18 and other high risk conditions. The fingerstick (36416) blood screen includes measuring two pregnancy related hormones—human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG, 84702) and pregnancy association plasma protein A (PAPP-A, 84163). The first trimester screen also includes an ultrasound to measure the nuchal fold thickness (76813). Combining the results from the blood tests and ultrasound, along with the mother's age, allows for the ability to more accurately identify risk.

Alpha fetoprotein (AFP, 82105)

The first trimester screen is followed by an assessment of risk for a neural tube defect in the fetus through a well-established test called the alpha fetal protein (AFP, 82105) prior to 20 weeks.

Quad Screen (82105, 82677, 83516, 84702)

Occasionally, a test called the quad screen will be performed during the second trimester ONLY if you have not had the first trimester screen but desire testing for Down syndrome. The quad screen test is a maternal blood screening test that looks for four specific substances: alpha fetoprotein (AFP, 82105), human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG, 84702), unconjugated estriol (82677), and unconjugated inhibin-A (83516). It is less sensitive, specific and is based on older technology as compared to the first trimester screen.