

Attention: Practice Change for Positive Down Syndrome Maternal Serum Screens – COVID 19 Response

Dear Health Care Provider,

Your patient has a **Positive Maternal Serum Screen (MSS) for Down syndrome** with gestational age ascertained by ultrasound. Given the COVID-19 crisis, they are now eligible for a funded Non-Invasive Prenatal Test (NIPT). NIPT can be ordered without the involvement of genetics.

NIPT: The Harmony Prenatal Test

- The Harmony Prenatal Test uses cell free DNA technology and is offered by the company Dynacare
- The test's detection rate is over 99% for Down syndrome
- Results take up to 10 business days and are sent directly to the ordering healthcare provider
- Women who receive a **negative** test do not require additional testing. For more information, the following website can be used to calculate the change of the baby having Down syndrome *after* a negative Harmony Prenatal Test: <https://www.perinatalquality.org/vendors/nsgc/nipt/>

How to Order the Harmony Prenatal Test

- Complete the requisition called "*Manitoba Requisition for Funded Harmony Testing Following Positive MSS*". The requisition is available at <https://wrha.mb.ca/genetics-and-metabolism/prenatal-genetic-screening/>
 - Ensure that all fields are completed, including checking the box under "**Indication for Funded Test**". Attach the patient's MSS report. *Incomplete requisitions or missing MSS reports will result in delays or cancellations of your patient's test.*
- The requisition and MSS report can be given to the patient **or** faxed to one of the Dynacare centers for the patient to have the blood drawn (see appendix for a list of the approved centres)

NOTE: Patients should be asked if they wish to test for fetal sex, Turner syndrome or sex chromosome aneuploidy. This can be done at no extra charge. We do **not** recommend testing for a 22q deletion routinely and the cost for this would not be covered.

When to Refer to Genetics

- Women with a **positive** Harmony Prenatal Test should be referred to genetics for counselling about their result as there are occasional false positive results with NIPT. *No irreversible action should be taken based on a positive Harmony Prenatal test alone.*
- Women who want to go directly to amniocentesis (e.g., risk for Down syndrome is high)
- Women with advanced gestational age (e.g., > 20 weeks gestation)
- Women who receive a failed or indeterminate NIPT result
- Women who would benefit from genetic counselling for other reasons (seeking more information, significant anxiety regarding their MSS result, etc.)

If your patient cannot have blood drawn at one of the approved collection centers, contact genetics for help with facilitation. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Genetics & Metabolism Program, Shared Health

Appendix: Collection Centers in Manitoba

LOCATION	ADDRESS	FAX
Sterling Lyon Seasons	1-515 Sterling Lyon Pkwy. Winnipeg, MB	431.808.0523
St. Vital	111-1225 St. Mary's Rd. Winnipeg, MB	431.808.0517
McPhillips Garden City	D-2211 McPhillips St. Winnipeg, MB	431.808.0519
Smart Centres	3-3653 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, MB	431.808.0521
Winkler	130-385 Main St. Winkler, MB	204.325.6700
Brandon Clinic	620 Dennis St. Brandon, MB	204.571.1313
Dauphin & Thompson	Requisition needs to be faxed to a Shared Health Facility for patient to go for collection. Dynacare Manitoba logistics needs to be contacted to have a kit shipped to these locations.	

*If you would like to keep Harmony Prenatal Test kits on site in your clinic, please contact Dynacare directly at 1-888-988-1888 and they will arrange shipping.