



# The California Prenatal Screening Program

## California Department of Public Health Genetic Disease Screening Program



Program Information and Update, December 2018

### Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) Survey Now attached to Test Request Forms (TRFs)

**NEW ITEM** Effective July 1, 2018, the Prenatal Screening (PNS) Program must comply with Government Code Section 8310.8, which states that California state entities collecting certain demographic data must also collect self-identified information about sexual orientation and gender identity. A postage-paid card will be attached to all Test Request Forms (TRFs) beginning in 2019.

**What you need to do:** tear off the card and give it directly to the patient, who can fill it out and mail it to the PNS Program. Returning this card is **VOLUNTARY** and will not affect any prenatal risk assessment or results interpretation. This information is collected in aggregate and will not be traceable to individual patients or prenatal screening test results.

### NIPT/cfDNA Reminders

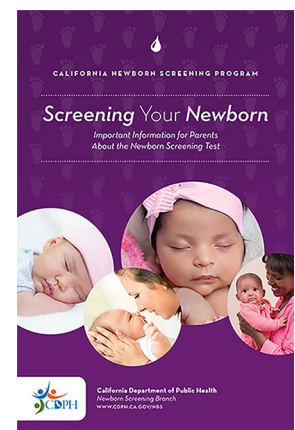
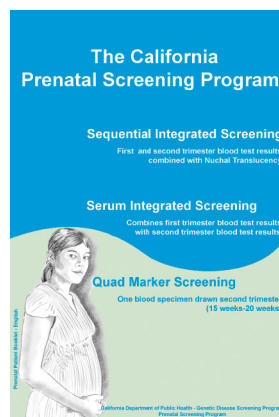
Cell-free fetal DNA screening (cfDNA), also known as non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT), is a very accurate screening test for the risk of certain chromosome abnormalities such as Down syndrome. Currently, cfDNA screening is covered as a follow-up service through the PNS Program for women at increased risk for chromosome abnormalities.

**Reminder:** Cell-free DNA doesn't identify structural defects such as neural tube defects (NTDs). "Cell-free DNA screening tests do not provide information regarding the potential for open fetal defects. Therefore, women who undergo cell-free DNA screening should be offered assessment for open fetal defects with ultrasonography, MSAFP screening, or both."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ACOG Practice Bulletin, Clinical Management Guidelines for Obstetrician-Gynecologists, "Screening for Fetal Aneuploidy," Number 163, May 2016.

### Pregnant Women Need to Know About Newborn Screening *Before* Their Baby is Born

As your patient's prenatal care provider, you are obligated by California Code of Regulations § 6504 to provide **Important Information for Parents about the Newborn Screening Test** (booklet is pictured on the far right). When we ship you the blue and green Prenatal Screening Information/Consent booklet, found near right, you will also receive the Newborn Screening Program's purple booklet. **Remember** to tell your patients that state law requires all newborn babies to be screened for over 80 genetic diseases within 48 hours after birth.



## Link to Patient Education Materials Available on PNS Website

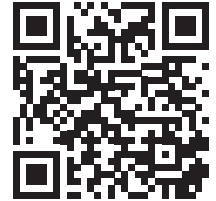
We have new mobile-friendly patient education materials now available on the PNS Program's website. Available in both English and Spanish, these materials explain different types of prenatal testing options, follow-up services for screen-positive patients, and much more. Scan the QR code or go directly to our website.



## Now available: PNS Gestational Age Calculator App



The Prenatal Screening Program has launched the PNS Calculator Mobile App. This free app is available from both the Google Play and Apple App Stores. The app provides time windows for drawing first and second trimester blood specimens and for obtaining a nuchal translucency ultrasound. Download it today!



## Revised Prenatal Screening Provider Handbook Coming Soon!

The Prenatal Care Provider Handbook contains detailed PNS Program information such as specimen collection directions, serum screening tests options, available follow-up services, program policies, and more. This handbook can be ordered free of charge using the PNS Program's supply order form available on our website: <http://cdph.ca.gov/pns>. The updated version of the Prenatal Provider Handbook will be available in digital and paper formats.

**Your email address needs to be updated...** In the *future*, the PNS Program will send important provider electronically. Please send us your institutional email to [pns@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:pns@cdph.ca.gov) with the Subject: PNS Clinician Email Address. Emails will not be shared outside of CDPH and are for in-house only.

### Program Contact Information:

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