

Ultrasound Dating and Down Syndrome Screening (for individuals who don't have an NT ultrasound)

For the purposes of prenatal screening, ultrasound dating is the best way to determine gestational age. (In other obstetrical contexts, this may not be the case.) Ultrasound dating allows the PNS Program to use the parameters specific for ultrasound-dated pregnancies in order to calculate an individual Down syndrome risk estimate. These parameters give a better estimate of the individual risk than do the last menstrual period (LMP) based parameters. When the PNS Program is given gestational ages established by more than one method, the interpretation will be based on the ultrasound information.

- Ultrasound dating gives a more precise estimate of an individual risk of Down syndrome.
- Include ultrasound dating information on the test form when available, even when ultrasound confirms LMP dates. For prenatal screening purposes, ultrasound dating using biparietal diameter [BPD] is preferred over using crown rump length (CRL) mainly because of differing precision in assay CRL measurement.
- If an individual has an ultrasound after their prenatal screening blood test, the prenatal care provider may call the PNS case coordinator for a recalculation of the test result based on the new dating information.