



## CA Prenatal Screening Program

# NT Quarterly Bulletin

### Patient Flow Options for Prenatal Screening

Are you constantly searching in the Screening Information System (SIS) for CA Prenatal Screening patients and not finding them in the system? Are you tired of faxing nuchal translucency (NT) exam data to the referring clinician on paper forms? There are several methods for which NT practitioners can submit NT exam data to the Program, and finding the one that works best for your patient flow can make the submission process much easier. The following suggestions are systems that are successfully working for many NT practitioners and their referring clinicians. Please communicate with your referring clinician base to determine which system works best for your patients.

#### For patients who have their NT ultrasound after their blood is drawn:

- Encourage the prenatal care provider to **draw the blood specimen at least one week ahead of time**, so the test results can be immediately combined with the NT results.
- TRF #: Have your appointment intake form and referral form include a line for the form number of the Prenatal Screening Test Request Form (TRF #). If the patient does not bring in her TRF #, please call her referring clinician (not the PNS Program Case Coordination Center) to obtain the TRF # and remind them to put it on the referral form.
- Please inform your referring clinicians if you are NOT going to exercise the option to enter NT data directly into SIS. Fill out the Nuchal Translucency Exam Data Form ([NT Data Form](#)) and return it (fax it) to the referring clinician. (Do NOT just send the original record from the ultrasound machine – clinician staff does not always read this correctly.) Please make sure to obtain and include the TRF # on the NT Data Form.
- If you are a SIS user, please enter the NT information online in SIS. If the patient's pregnancy data is not yet in SIS, please fill out the [NT Data Form](#) and return it to the clinician. (Visit our [website](#) for instructions on becoming a SIS user).
- If you are not a SIS user, or if you do not have the TRF #, please fill out the [NT Data Form](#) and return it to the referring clinician.

#### For patients who have their NT ultrasound before their blood is drawn:

- Ask the referring clinician to completely fill out a Test Request Form (except for NT data and Blood Collection Date) and give it to the patient to bring to her NT appointment. You should add the NT data to the TRF and send the patient for the blood draw. The clinician will get a screening result, including NT, about one week after the blood is drawn.
- For the patient who does not bring a TRF to her NT exam, fill out the Nuchal Translucency Exam Data Form ([NT Data Form](#)) and fax it to the referring clinician (not the PNS Program Case Coordination Center). The clinician will put the NT data on the patient's TRF and send her for her blood draw.

### Units for NT Data Submission: *millimeters (mm) with one decimal place*

Crown-Rump Length (CRL) and NT measurements must be submitted to the Program in millimeters (mm) with no more than one decimal place, e.g. CRL of 59.8 mm or an NT of 1.7 mm. Using any other units when submitting NT exam data to the Program or the referring clinician can cause delays in patients receiving their results, as the data must be verified and manually changed. Please be sure to convert your NT exam data to mm when it is to be used for CA Prenatal Screening risk assessments. Please also be aware that sending only the ultrasound report to the referring clinician's office can make it difficult for clinician staff to transfer the data to the Program, as ultrasound reports are uniquely formatted and often print with units not used by the Program. If you are faxing your NT exam data to the referring clinician, please convert the data to mm, write the data on the [Nuchal Translucency Exam Data Form](#) and send that form to the clinician's office.

#### Updates and Reminders:

- Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) is now offered by the Program as a follow-up option for **Screen Positive** patients. The [Newsletter](#) on the [PNS website](#) details these recent changes to the Program. The NT practitioner materials on the [NTP website](#) have also been updated.

#### We're Online

Visit our [website](#) for instructions on how to enter NT data online; tools for calculating the valid gestational age window; and various guidance documents for NT practitioners.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pns/pages/ntpractitioner.aspx>

#### Questions or Comments?

Contact Jamie Matteson  
[Jamie.Matteson@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jamie.Matteson@cdph.ca.gov)  
(510) 307-8597