



# The California Prenatal Screening Program

California Department of Public Health

Genetic Disease Screening Program



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## CALIFORNIA PRENATAL SCREENING PROGRAM UPDATE (formerly, the Expanded AFP Screening Program)

### Prenatal Screening Program Expansion: New Program effective late March 2009

The Expanded AFP Screening Program is now the California Prenatal Screening Program. We are pleased to announce the addition of Integrated Screening for Down syndrome and Trisomy 18 in late March, 2009. The Prenatal Screening Program is **shipping startup packets** of new Program materials to all prenatal care provider offices and OB clinics in California **during the last week of March**. **Upon receipt of the new Program test request forms and patient booklets**, prenatal screening with the State Program will include the option for first trimester specimens with or without Nuchal Translucency (NT) measurements.

#### A patient's screening options will be:

<b>Quad Marker Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One blood specimen drawn at 15 weeks 0 days – 20 weeks 0 days of pregnancy (current second trimester program). Risk assessment for NTD, SLOS, Down syndrome (Trisomy 21, T21) and Trisomy 18 (T18).</li> </ul>
<b>Serum Integrated Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combines first trimester blood test results (10 weeks – 13 weeks 6 days) with second trimester blood test results. Risk assessment for NTD, SLOS, T21 and T18.</li> </ul> <p>First trimester specimens must be blood specimens, not spots on filter paper. First trimester specimens <b>must</b> be centrifuged or they cannot be analyzed.</p>
<b>Full Integrated Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combines first and second trimester blood test results with NT results (Note: the Screening Program does not pay for NT ultrasounds). Risk assessment for NTD, SLOS, T21 and T18.</li> <li>Patients with first trimester blood specimens and NT will get a preliminary risk assessment for T21 and T18 in the first trimester. This preliminary risk is revised when the second trimester blood specimen is received.</li> </ul>

**By State statute and regulations, prenatal screening with maternal blood markers can only be performed by the California State Program.** Commercial laboratories will no longer perform similar screening in California. (Patients who have begun integrated or sequential screening should complete testing through the same laboratory.)

The Prenatal Screening Program Coordinators are now offering “in-services” to clinicians and their staff to describe the new Integrated Screening Program. For more information, please contact your Prenatal Screening Coordinator office (formerly AFP Coordinator office), listed at the bottom of every result mailer.

**When you receive your startup packet (late March)**, please discard your Expanded AFP materials and replace them with the new Prenatal Screening Program materials. These include:

- New Patient booklets (includes Consent Forms):** Your patients should now receive the new (blue) Prenatal Screening Program booklets.
- New First Trimester Test Request Forms (blue edge):** For all patients having blood drawn between 10 weeks, 0 days and 13 weeks, 6 days gestation.
- New Second Trimester Test Request Forms (green edge):** For all patients having blood drawn between 15 weeks, 0 days and 20 weeks, 0 days gestation.
- New Prenatal Care Provider Handbook:** Detailed Program information and reference for licensed health professionals. Please order additional handbooks, if needed.

The current list of registered NT Practitioners and other Program materials are available on the Prenatal Screening Program website: [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pns](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pns).