

Patient Name: _____ Account Number: _____

PRENATAL SCREENING FOR CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES AND NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS

Screening is available to detect some types of birth defects for all women, regardless of age. If you are interested in these tests, *please check your insurance plan to see whether this testing is included in your coverage. Please sign and return this form to your doctor as soon as possible.*

1ST TRIMESTER:

- **First screen** consists of a blood test from the mother and an ultrasound to measure nuchal translucency (skin fold on the baby's neck). These tests can identify whether your fetus is at a higher risk of having chromosomal abnormalities such as trisomy 13, 18, or 21 (Down Syndrome), but cannot give a definite diagnosis. It is usually done between 11.1 and 13.6 weeks, and is approximately 85-90% accurate. It can have false positives or false negatives. There is no increased risk of miscarriage associated with these tests. Since it cannot identify neural tube defects (NTD), which are problems related to the brain or spinal cord, we recommend that you have an AFP (see below) at approximately 16 weeks in conjunction with this test.
- **Chorionic villus sampling (CVS)** involves taking a biopsy of the placenta, performed by a perinatologist, and can identify chromosomal abnormalities, as well as some other genetic disorders. It is usually done between 10 and 12 weeks, and there is an increased risk of miscarriage. Since it cannot identify NTD, we recommend that you have an AFP at approximately 16 weeks in conjunction with this test.

2ND TRIMESTER:

- **MSS 5 (penta screen)** replaces the triple and quadruple screens. It consists of a blood test from the mother. This test can identify whether your fetus is at a higher risk of having chromosomal abnormalities such as trisomy 18 or 21, or a NTD, but cannot give a definite diagnosis. It is usually done between 15 and 22 weeks and is approximately 80% accurate in detecting trisomy 21 and NTD and approximately 60% accurate in detecting trisomy 18. It can have false positives or false negatives. There is no increased risk of miscarriage associated with this test.
- **AFP (alpha-fetoprotein)** is a screening test which consists of a blood test from the mother (included as part of the penta screen). It can identify whether your fetus is at a higher risk of having a NTD, but cannot give a definite diagnosis. It may also identify fetuses at increased risk for some other birth defects or placental problems later in pregnancy. It is usually done between 15 and 21 weeks if you have already had 1st trimester evaluation with either First screen or CVS and is approximately 80% accurate.
- **Amniocentesis** involves taking a sample of amniotic fluid from the baby's sac, and is performed by a perinatologist. It can identify the same chromosomal abnormalities, some other genetic disorders, and NTD. It is usually done around 16 weeks, and there is an increased risk of miscarriage associated with this test

I ACCEPT DECLINE FIRST SCREEN

I ACCEPT DECLINE CVS

I ACCEPT DECLINE MSS (penta screen)

I ACCEPT DECLINE AFP

I ACCEPT DECLINE AMNIOCENTESIS

Signature: _____ Date: _____