Your prenatal testing options at a glance

Screening tests

These **tell you how likely your baby** is to have certain common conditions.

9-13 weeks — First trimester screening

Two tests evaluate your baby's risk for Down syndrome and other chromosomal conditions:

A **blood test** measures the levels of two proteins, free Beta-hCG and PAPP-A.

An **ultrasound** measures the fluid at the back of the baby's neck (nuchal translucency).

15-18 weeks — Second trimester screening

A **blood test** evaluates your baby's risk for Down syndrome, a few other chromosomal conditions, and neural tube defects like spina bifida:

The "quad screen" measures levels of AFP, hCG, uE3, and inhibin A in your blood.

Diagnostic tests

These **tell you for sure if your baby has** any of hundreds of conditions.

11-13 weeks — CVS

Diagnoses nearly all chromosomal conditions (such as Down syndrome) and several hundred genetic conditions (such as cystic fibrosis).

A needle is inserted through the abdomen or cervix to withdraw a small tissue sample from the placenta.

16-22 weeks — Amniocentesis

Diagnoses nearly all chromosomal conditions (such as Down syndrome), several hundred genetic conditions (such as cystic fibrosis), and neural tube defects (such as spina bifida).

A needle is inserted through the abdomen to withdraw a small amount of amniotic fluid.

One more option

10+ weeks — Cell-free fetal DNA testing

This new blood test detects Down syndrome and a few other chromosomal conditions by measuring fragments of your baby's DNA in your blood. If the results indicate a problem, you'll need CVS or amniocentesis to know for sure if your baby is affected.