

**Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory  
at Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC**

**PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PRENATAL CHEMISTRY SERUM SPECIMENS  
(1<sup>st</sup> AND 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester samples)**

The Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory has replaced the **Triple Screen** testing with **Quad Screen** testing: (MS-AFP, uE3, hCG, Inhibin A). This testing is done between 15 and 20+6 weeks gestation. **Integrated Screening** is also now available, which involves two samples – one collected in each of the first and second trimesters of pregnancy.

**THESE SAMPLES ARE TIME-SENSITIVE FOR THE PRENATAL CARE OF THESE PATIENTS.**

Please ensure the samples are delivered to Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory within **4 days**. See handling below to identify the quickest option for your laboratory.

**Please include a completed Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory Requisition with each sample.**

Testing Available:

- **Test Name: Quad Screen**  
Synonyms: Triple Marker Screen (TMS), Maternal Serum Screen, MS-AFP
- **Test Name: Serum Integrated Prenatal Screen (SIPS) Part 1 / Part 2**  
Synonyms: Part 1 (10 to 13+6 weeks), Part 2 (15 to 20+6 weeks), IPS, Integrated Screening
- **Test Name: Maternal Serum AFP Only**  
Synonyms: OSB testing only (not full Quad Screen). Done only by special request of the physician

**Specimen type and volume for all tests above:**

- One 5 ml SST tubes or two 3.5 ml SST tubes.
- 3 ml serum aliquot from non-SST clot.
- Plasma is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

**Specimen handling for all tests above:**

- Label samples with at least 3 unique identifiers (i.e.: Name, PHN, DOB)
- Centrifuge and send samples in original SST tube at **4 °C (on ice-pack)**
- Serum samples from non-SST tubes must be aliquoted within **24 hours** by ref. lab.
- Send samples with completed **Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory Requisition** to:

**Prenatal Biochemistry Laboratory: Attn Specimen Receiving**  
Department of Pathology, **RM 2J20**  
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC  
4500 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, V6H 3N1  
Ph (604) 875-2331 Fax (604) 875-3008

- Samples (SST or aliquot) at **4°C** must be received at Prenatal Biochemistry Lab within **4 days**.
- Samples delayed over 4 days due to holidays/weekends must be frozen for shipping on dry ice as soon as possible. (SST tubes must be first aliquoted.)