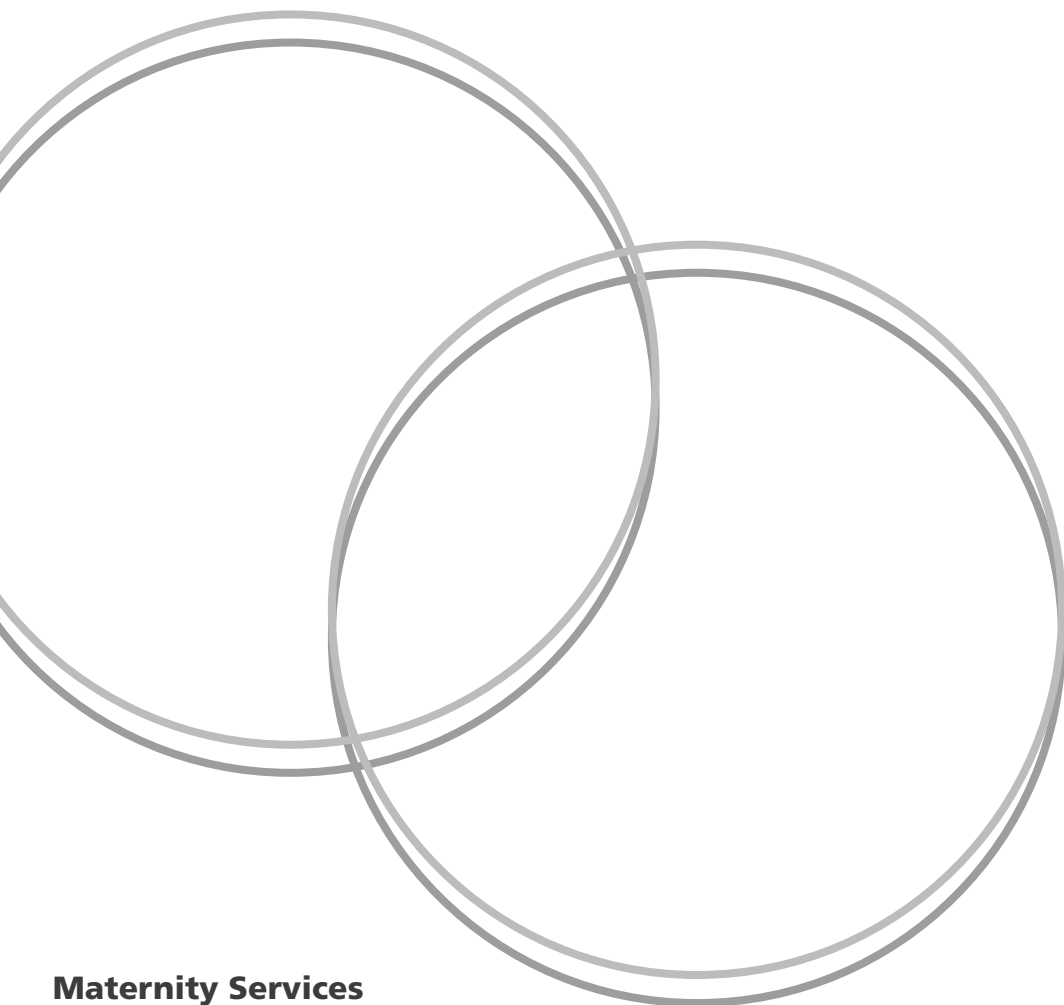




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

The Quadruple Blood Test

Information leaflet



Maternity Services

This leaflet explains the screening test for Down's syndrome that is offered during pregnancy when either the required scan measurements could not be obtained, or the pregnancy was greater than 14 weeks and 1 day gestation.

This screening test is called the Quadruple Blood Test. This leaflet is offered as an extra source of information that can be read alongside the national booklet 'Screening tests for you and your baby'.

Choosing whether or not to have these tests is an important decision for you and your baby. You need to make the decision that is right for you. You may find it helpful to discuss this further with your midwife.

What tests will I be offered?

All women and birthing people in England are offered screening tests for Down's syndrome in accordance with nationally set quality standards and guidance. This **screening** test does not give a definite answer but tells you whether you have an increased chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome. If you are at increased chance, we will then offer you an appointment with Fetal Medicine Unit to discuss further screening or diagnostic tests.

What do the screening tests involve?

The Quadruple test is offered to women and birthing people who are more than 14 weeks +1 day pregnant at the time of the ultrasound scan, or for whom it has not been technically possible to obtain the measurement required for the nuchal scan. The blood test can be performed from 14 weeks +2 days to 20 weeks +0 days of pregnancy.

Four biochemical markers in the blood are measured and combined with the mother's age and weight, are used to calculate the chance of the baby having Down's syndrome.

What happens next?

The results will be available within two weeks of testing. The results are given in the form of a ratio. For example, a result of 1 in 151 means that there is a 1 in 151 chance of the baby having Down's syndrome. The other way of interpreting this result would be that there is a 150 in 151 chance that the baby would not have Down's syndrome.

The **Quadruple test** result will fall within 1 of the 2 groups shown below:

Lower chance result
1 in 151 to 1 in 5000

Higher chance result
1 in 2 to 1 in 150

The Specialist Midwives in Fetal Medicine at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford will contact you by telephone within 3 days of the test and offer you an appointment to discuss the result. Women and birthing people in this higher chance group are offered a further screening or diagnostic tests.

Further information

The following websites give more information about antenatal screening which you may find helpful.

Antenatal Results and Choices Support Charity

Website: www.arc-uk.org

Down's Syndrome Association

Website: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Fetal Medicine

Level 6, Women's Centre John Radcliffe Hospital

Telephone: 01865 221 716

Screening Co-ordinator

Telephone: 01865 221 087

(An answerphone message service is available if you are calling outside of office hours)

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

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Author: Screening Coordinator

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

www.ouh.nhs.uk/information

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