

PROCEDURES PERFORMED DURING YOUR PREGNANCY

- At either your first or second OB visit you will begin having your routine OB lab work. This will include a urine culture, cultures for Chlamydia & Gonorrhea, a Pap smear, and blood work. This blood work will include your blood type, antibody screen, a complete blood count, immunity to German Measles, a screen for Syphilis, HIV and Hepatitis B. If you are African-American, you will be tested for Sickle Cell anemia (if there is no previous history of this test having already been done). You will also be given information concerning Cystic Fibrosis screening. Your doctor will review this information with you. Should you desire this testing, the blood work may be drawn as soon as you decide.
- During your first trimester of pregnancy your doctor will review information with you regarding 1st trimester screening for genetic defects (Down's syndrome, Trisomy 18). This screening is an ultrasound done in conjunction with a very specific blood test. The **two** combined will give the risk ratio for these genetic occurrences. (Remember, this is only a screening test.) If your result puts you at an increased risk your physician will discuss the possibility of further testing.
- Between 16-18 weeks of pregnancy your doctor may recommend the Alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP)/Triple screen. This blood test helps to identify neural tube defects (defects involving the development of the baby's brain and spine). If you have elected to have the 1st trimester screening this test may not be necessary. Your doctor will discuss this with you.
- Between 18-22 weeks you will have your OB ultrasound. Please remember to schedule this appointment IN ADDITION to your routine monthly OB visit. We will gladly provide you with ultrasound pictures after your visit. This ultrasound is considered routine and is done to assess all of the fetal organs and diagnostic measurements will be taken. If you are asked to return for an additional ultrasound do not be alarmed, sometimes the baby will just not position themselves where every area can be evaluated!
- At 27 weeks you will be screened for Gestational Diabetes. This test involves drinking a measured amount of a glucose drink. After 1 hour your blood sugar will be checked. Your hematocrit (anemia screen) will be tested at this time also. You do NOT need to be fasting for this procedure. You may eat a regular diet, but do try to avoid sweets the day before and the day of your test. At this time you will also be screened again for HIV (as required by law). If your blood type is **Rh negative** you will have another antibody screen drawn at this time as well. Please plan to return to the office 2 days after this antibody screen for your **Rhogam injection**. The nurse will give you written information regarding the location of the reference lab your testing should be performed.
- Finally, at 35 weeks you may be screened for **Group B Streptococcus (GBS)**. If you were treated for GBS early in your pregnancy as detected by the urine culture results you will not have this screen. GBS is a bacteria that is sometimes found in the reproductive tracts of women and can possibly be passed to the baby during delivery. The screen consists simply of a vaginal culture done in conjunction with your routine pelvic exam. If this result is positive (or your urine culture was positive), your doctor will advise you of precautions that will be taken during labor including intravenous antibiotics.