



Enhanced FTS Information-FAQs

What is Enhanced FTS?

Enhanced FTS is a new first trimester screening test that uses 4 serum markers plus the nuchal translucency (NT) measurement, along with maternal age to generate a pregnancy specific risk for Down syndrome. The two new markers that are analyzed include placental growth factor (PIGF) and first trimester alpha fetoprotein (AFP). This is in addition to PAPP-A and beta hCG, which have always been part of the FTS.

What does it screen for?

Enhanced FTS is a screening test for Down syndrome. It can also indicate when there is a high risk for Trisomy 18.

What does it not screen for?

Enhanced FTS does not screen for open neural tube defects or spina bifida. It does not screen for all chromosome problems in pregnancies. At this time, it is not a screening test for adverse obstetrical outcomes or pre-eclampsia, however individual practitioners may use the information from this test to identify high risk patients.

What is the recommended screen for spina bifida/ONTD?

SOGC guidelines regarding screening for fetal neural tube defects (October 2014) endorses the use of ultrasound (18-20 weeks) for screening of ONTD.

Is enhanced FTS a good test?

By including the two new markers, enhanced FTS is an improvement over FTS. It has been shown to have a detection rate that is comparable to integrated prenatal screen (IPS). We estimate a detection rate of 85-90%.

Is Ethnicity important?

Yes! Please report as accurately as you can. If unsure provide details under "other".

Why should I order this test for my patient?

Enhanced FTS will allow your patients to have information about their pregnancy in the first or early second trimester. For those who have a positive screen result, they can access NIPT or diagnostic testing sooner than if they had IPS.

How do I order enhanced FTS?

On the NYGH Prenatal Screening Requisition select enhanced FTS as the test of choice. Arrange your patient's NT scan and blood drawn between 11-13 weeks

Please note that since April 1, 2016, enhanced FTS has replaced the previous two serum marker FTS test at North York General Hospital.