Prenatal SCREENING VERSUS DIAGNOSIS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Screening tests for chromosome disorders such as Down syndrome are offered as a routine part of prenatal care.
You can also choose to have **diagnostic tests** instead of screening tests regardless of your age.

Learn the differences between these two types of tests:

	Screening	Diagnosis
Approach	Requires a blood test* and sometimes an ultrasound exam. * Blood test options include traditional serum screening (e.g., sequential screen, quad screen) or "non-invasive prenatal screening" using cell-free DNA.	Requires amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS).
Accuracy	Tells you the **chances that** the fetus has a genetic disorder. Diagnostic testing may be recommended if screening results show an increased chance that the fetus has a genetic disorder.	Tells you with a **high degree of certainty** whether the fetus has a genetic disorder.
Risks	There are no risks to you or the pregnancy.	There are slight risks to the pregnancy.
Timing	Can be done beginning at 10 weeks of pregnancy.	Can be done between 10-13 weeks (CVS) or at 15 weeks until the end of pregnancy (amnio).

Remember: Testing is voluntary. You can always choose not to have any testing.

Contact your ob care provider or MFM specialist if you have any questions about prenatal genetic testing.

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine