

AUSTRALIAN

**Clinical**labs

# *First Trimester Screening (FTS)*



## *What is First Trimester Screening (FTS)?*

*First Trimester Screening is the current recommended screening program to identify women at increased risk of having an affected foetus with chromosomal aneuploidy such as Down syndrome (Trisomy 21), Edwards syndrome (Trisomy 18) or Patau syndrome (Trisomy 13).*

## *Why choose Clinical Labs?*

- **Fast turnaround time**
- **Conveniently located collection centres**
- **Accredited testing methods and results**
- **Genetic counselling at no additional charge (referral form required)**

# Here's how the process works

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## Are you pregnant between 9 - 13.6 weeks?



### **Attend your doctor**

Obtain a referral from your doctor to visit an Australian Clinical Labs collection centre.



### **Attend a Clinical Labs collection centre**

Your blood sample will be collected. Please notify the collection staff which ultrasound clinic you will be attending.



You will receive a letter from Australian Clinical Labs. It is **VITAL** that you take and present it to the ultrasound clinic at your appointment.



Your blood is processed by Australian Clinical Labs.



### **Attend ultrasound appointment**

Attend your appointment with the referral form and the letter from Clinical Labs.



Results and final report are generated and validated by Clinical Labs. The results are sent to your referring doctor.



### **Revisit doctor to receive your final report**

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## **Benefits of cFTS and Placental Growth Factor (PIGF)**

- Recommended by clinical guidelines for pregnant women of all age groups.
- Early detection of Down syndrome with a rate of >90%.
- The test is safe and non-invasive.
- It can be offered to pregnant women with failed Non-Invasive Pre-natal Testing (NIPT).
- Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) can be used as a marker for pre-eclampsia screening.

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## **When should combined First Trimester Screening (cFTS) be tested?**

- A blood chemistry test can be performed between 9 - 13.6 weeks of gestation (ideally performed at 10 weeks).
- An ultrasound examination is normally performed at 11 - 13 weeks of gestation (ideally performed at 12 weeks).

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## **What are the risks of cFTS?**

The blood test is non-invasive and there are no known risks to the foetus in having an ultrasound in pregnancy.

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## **Is genetic counselling available?**

Genetic counselling is offered to high risk patients at no additional cost. You will need a referral from your doctor.

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## **When will results be available?**

Results will be available within 1-2 working days following the ultrasound scan date.

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## **How to order?**

Visit your health practitioner. They can order FTS for patients using the Clinical Labs Antenatal request form.

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## **Cost**

There may be out-of-pocket costs for both the FTS and PIGF. There is a Medicare rebate available for FTS.



# Which test should I ask for?

Australian Clinical Labs specialise in FTS testing and Harmony testing.

Below is a comparison tool to help you make an informed decision about which test best suits your needs.

<b>FIRST TRIMESTER SCREEN</b>	<b>harmony™</b> PRENATAL TEST <i>performed in Australia</i>
Partial Medicare rebate	No Medicare rebate
Detection rate >90%	Detection rate >99%
False positive approx 5%	False positive <0.1%
Pre-eclampsia risk assessment (additional fee)	Not performed
Not performed	Gender of the baby
Not performed	Sex chromosomal aneuploidy
Ultrasound essential for risk analysis	Ultrasound preferred, but not essential
Cannot be validated if number of foetuses >2	Cannot be validated if number of foetuses >2



**Further information:**

**1300 453 688** | [antenatal.clinicallabs.com.au/patient](http://antenatal.clinicallabs.com.au/patient)