



Pregnancy Related Screens

When learning about pregnancy screens informed consent is crucial. Informed consent refers to the process by which you make a formed decision after knowing the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a proposed screen, and gives their voluntary agreement to proceed. It ensures that individuals have a full understanding of what they agree to, enabling them to make a knowledgeable decision about their own health care.

Prenatal Panel is offered at initial prenatal appointment

The prenatal panel may include depending on your provider ABO Grouping, RHO Typing (Blood Type), CBC (Complete Blood Count), MMR Immunity, Hepatitis B Surface Antibody along with STI screens and HIV. These labs provide crucial health information that assists your provider in delivering optimal care.

Genetic Testing is offered between 11 to 14 weeks

Pregnancy genetic testing detects potential genetic or chromosomal abnormalities in your baby. The decision to complete genetic testing is based on maternal age, family history, results of screen and personal choice. It is important for expectant parents to discuss the benefits, risks and implications of testing with their provider to make an informed decision.

Anatomy Ultrasound Scan are offered 18 to 22 weeks

The anatomy US scan assesses the baby's development and checks for structural abnormalities by providing detailed information on your baby's organs. During the scan measurements of baby are taken, position of placenta is noted and in many cases gender determined

Gestational Diabetes Screen are offered at 24 to 28 weeks

This screen assesses elevated blood sugar levels. If left untreated can lead to complications for the birthing person and baby. Some choose to self-test at home, while others take a 1- or 3-hour GTT.

Depression and Anxiety offered periodically during prenatal care and during post-partum

Depression and anxiety are common in pregnancy. Screening tools are used to evaluate the emotional wellbeing of pregnant individuals, typically involving standardized questionnaires. Mental health is a significant component contributing to maternal mortality and should be offered during prenatal care as often and during the post-partum periods as necessary.

Group B Strep (GBS) Screen are offered at 36 weeks

Group B Strep (GBS) is the screening and treatment of GBS infection during pregnancy and labor. GBS is a harmless bacteria present in vagina or rectum of 30% of the population. However, if transmitted to your baby during childbirth, it can cause serious infections in some newborns. Pregnant individuals who regularly consume high-quality refrigerated probiotic in the billions typically do not test positive for GBS. It's crucial to have screening results available if transferring to hospital to show antibodies are not necessary to treat GBS.

Postdates

Term pregnancy spans from 37 to 42 weeks gestation, encompassing the natural gestation period. As midwives, we prioritize the natural process of labor, respecting the body's and baby's timing. However, there is scientific evidence suggesting a slight increase in fetal injury and death in pregnancies extending beyond 41 weeks. Postdate pregnancy may elevate risks such as meconium-stained fluid, oligohydramnios, macrosomia, shoulder dystocia, postpartum hemorrhage, and placental dysfunction. Approaching 41 weeks, our recommended procedures include reviewing dates and fundal height, assessing fetal size and position, monitoring fetal movements through kick counts at a consistent time daily, consulting with a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), and offering non-stress tests (NST), biophysical profiles, and amniotic fluid index (AFI) assessments weekly or biweekly to ensure optimal care and potentially support labor initiation if indicated.



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These the following procedures are offered to your newborn.

Antibiotic Eye Ointment and Vitamin K offered to your baby after birth

Erythromycin (Antibiotic Eye Ointment) was important before routine STI screening. Newborn gonorrhea was the leading cause of blindness. Thankfully that is no longer the case. Vitamin K is essential for normal blood clotting, and newborns typically have insufficient amounts of this crucial vitamin. Babies initially lack vitamin K because they are born with sterile intestines, where vitamin K production by bacteria takes time to establish. Breastfeeding facilitates bacterial colonization in the intestines, eventually leading to adequate vitamin K production within the first week of life.

Newborn Metabolic Screen and Pulse Oz offered between 24 and 48

Newborn metabolic screening detects metabolic birth defects, which involve chemical changes during digestion and absorption within living cells. These conditions are not visible at birth but, if untreated, can lead to physical issues, mental retardation, and sometimes death. The test involves taking a blood sample from your baby, ideally between 24 and 48 hours after birth.

Newborn Hearing Screen

Hearing impairment, if not identified early, can lead to delays in communication skills and cognitive development.

Newborn Vaccinations

Immunizations for newborns are essential to protect them from serious and potentially life-threatening diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, and meningitis. Vaccines help build immunity against these diseases, reducing the risk of outbreaks and protecting not only the individual but also the community through herd immunity. Early immunizations provide a foundation for long-term health and wellbeing by preventing illnesses that can cause severe complications or death in infants. Find more information on the CDC website, [Vaccines and Immunizations | CDC](#) so you can make the best-informed choice for your family. Your local pediatrician can administer immunizations you want for your newborn.