



Obstetrical Blood work

Throughout your pregnancy blood work maybe ordered. Most of the blood work is routine and recommended by the state health department for pregnant patients. Some blood work (genetic testing) is voluntary and is further explained in our genetic testing hand out. Sometimes more blood work is ordered to monitor medical conditions in pregnancy or if health problems develop during pregnancy. Below is a list of common labs done in pregnancy.

Urine screen- This is done at every visit for the presence of sugar, protein, hydration, blood, and infections of the kidney or bladder.

Pap smear- This is typically done at your first visit if you are not up to date on your pap. This test screens for cervical cancer and precancer. It does NOT detect uterine or ovarian abnormalities.

Gonorrhea/Chlamydia testing- this is a vaginal swab or a urine test which is performed at your first visit to test for STDs this is required for all pregnancies. This maybe repeated in 3rd trimester or if the test is positive after treatment.

TSH- Thyroid testing

Blood Type and Rh status- This is needed to determine your blood type in case you need Rhogam in early pregnancy. Rhogam is given to RH negative blood types in the context of obstetrical bleeding to protect future pregnancies.

Prenatal Panel- The prenatal panel includes a complete blood count, Blood type, Hepatitis B status, Syphilis test, blood antibody test, Rubella antibody status, Hepatitis C status, and HIV testing

Hba1c- Is a test done to look at blood sugar levels over the last 3 months. It does not matter what you eat that day or in the couple days prior to the testing. This test looks at average blood sugars over 90 days. This can be used to

determine diabetic status prior to pregnancy as well as blood sugar control during pregnancy.

Parvovirus Testing- This test is done to determine your antibodies to a common viral infection seen in children and adults that can cause birth defects. Having antibodies to this is protective.

Toxoplasmosis- is a test performed in patients who live with cats. Toxoplasmosis is a virus found in cat litter and soil that can infect humans and fetuses causing birth defects.

Varicella Antibodies- This test is performed to determine your immunity status if you have an exposure to chicken pox during pregnancy.

Vitamin D- Low vitamin D levels is linked to malnutrition and preterm birth. It is also responsible for bone health in women.

Maternal Serum Alpha Fetal Protein- This lab is drawn at your 16 week visit. This is a protein produced by the fetal liver and found in the maternal blood. An abnormal AFP can be a sign of : neural tube defects or spina bifida, Downs syndrome, chromosomal abnormalities, or abdominal wall defects in the baby.

Glucose Tolerance Testing- This is typically performed at your 28 week visit to check for gestational diabetes. A 50g glucose drink is administered at your visit. After one hour a finger stick is performed to monitor your blood glucose levels. We recommend not eating anything very sugary or carbohydrate rich 2 hours prior to your visit.

Pre Eclampsia Blood Work- You maybe asked to perform a pre-eclampsia 24 hour urine protein and blood work. This is typically done in high risk pregnancies or if you show signs of pre-eclampsia (protein in the urine/ increased in swelling/ elevated blood pressure). This includes a 24 hour urine protein which is collected in a jug refrigerated and brought to your visits as well as a complete blood count, a metabolic panel which evaluates kidney, liver and electrolyte status. A Bun/Creatinine which monitor your kidney function.