

NIPS (Non-Invasive Pre-Natal Screen)

Thank you for your enquiry to book a NIPS (Non-Invasive Pre-Natal Screen). NIPS works by testing the mother's blood for genetic material from the placenta, which naturally passes into the mother's bloodstream from 10 weeks of pregnancy onwards.

Currently in Aotearoa NZ there is no public funding for NIPS, so you will have to pay the full cost of this. NIPS is a screening test only, not a diagnostic test. The referral must come from your registered health professional, eg, your Lead Maternity Carer (LMC) from 10 weeks. An ultrasound test is also required prior to allow the results to be correctly interpreted. For example, the results are interpreted differently if there are twins.

How long does it take to get the results back?

Illumiscreen is the only NIPS performed in Aotearoa New Zealand and results can take up to 5-7 working days. For more information on the test and to prepay online please click the link - <https://illumiscreen.co.nz>

Where can I have my blood sample for NIPS?

You can get your blood sample taken at our rooms in:

- Haupapa St, Rotorua
- Cameron Rd, Tauranga
- Tristram St, Hamilton

This test can be undertaken Monday - Wednesday for our Rotorua and Tauranga regions, Monday - Thursday mornings for Hamilton patients. No appointment is needed. You need to pay for this test online via [HERE on Illumiscreen portal](#), prior to attending Pathlab for blood collection. Once paid, please bring proof of purchase together with the Illumiscreen request form with you to Pathlab. The cost of this test is \$705.70 (inc gst).

How soon in my pregnancy can I have the blood test done for NIPS?

No earlier than 10 weeks. Neither test can be undertaken before this time.

If you have any questions, please contact your midwife in the first instance.