

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.

There are some options of testing that are available to you and your midwife will help guide you as to which test you may prefer. Pathlab provides blood collection services for:

The logo for Illumiscreen, featuring the word "illumiscreen" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "i" is blue, and "llumiscreen" is teal. A thin blue wave-like line is positioned below the text.The logo for Sequenca Genetics, featuring a circular icon with a stylized DNA helix in blue and purple, followed by the words "sequenca" and "genetics" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. "sequenca" is blue and "genetics" is purple.

How long does it take to get the results back?

Sequenca test is undertaken by an overseas laboratory - results can take up to 10 working days. For more information on this test please click the link - <https://sequenca.nz/>

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 Pathlab rooms in Rotorua, Tauranga and Hamilton.

For the Sequenca Test:

This blood test is done on certain days in the Rotorua, Tauranga and Hamilton regions, only available on Monday and Tuesday morning appointments (excluding public holidays). The results will go directly back to your midwife / requestor so please ensure you bring a completed request form when you present for your appointment. This test can be performed anytime from 10 weeks pregnancy onwards, please ensure you have had a scan to confirm a singleton or twin pregnancy. Before we can confirm your appointment, it is a requirement that you view a pre-test video prior to presenting to our laboratory – you then consent to the test at the time of your appointment. [HERE is the link to view the Sequenca pre-test video](#) and below that is the access password required. Click on the test you would like – it will prompt you to add a password. If you have any questions there is a 'Contact Us' prompt at the end of the video. Test Password Price MaterniT21 core \$685.00 Materni T21 Plus plus \$1,095.00 Materni T Genome genome \$1,495.00 When you have decided which test you require, please call us back and we will book you in on the next available appointment. 07 858 0799. [HERE is a link to our Pathlab website with the Sequenca B. maternit21-brochure.](#)

For Illumiscreen:

This test can be undertaken Monday - Wednesday for our Rotorua and Tauranga regions, Monday - Thursday 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.