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In association with

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What is Non-invasive Prenatal Screening (NIPS)

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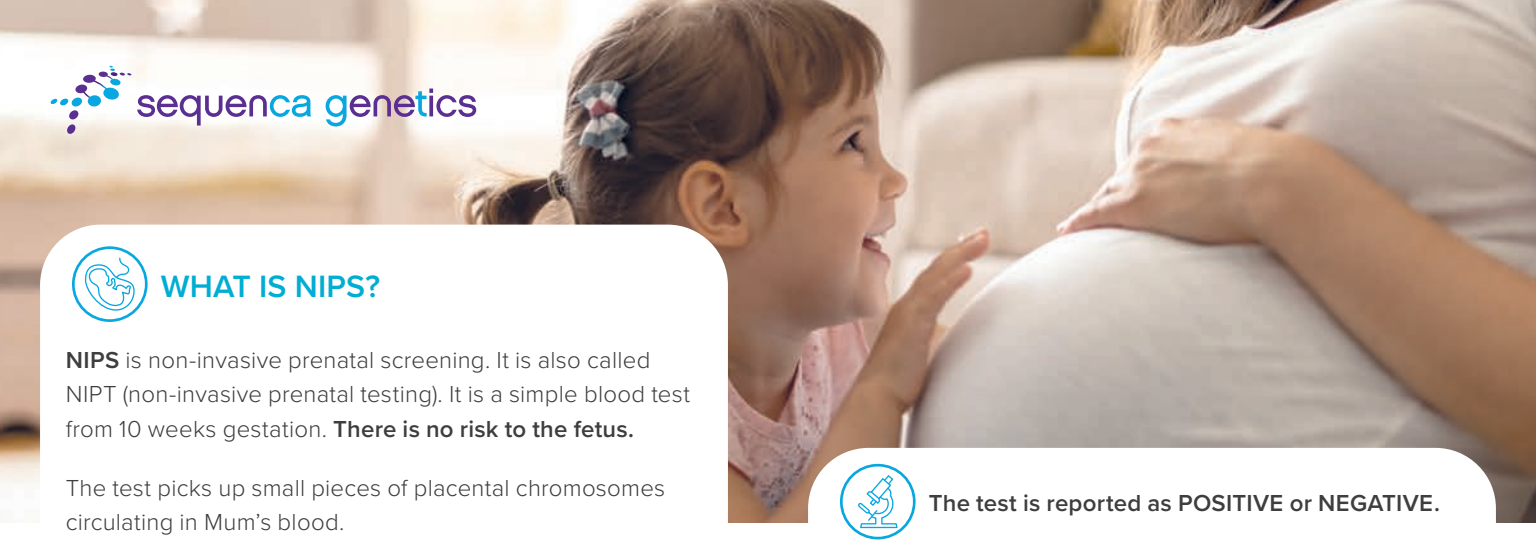

WHAT IS NIPS?

NIPS is non-invasive prenatal screening. It is also called NIPT (non-invasive prenatal testing). It is a simple blood test from 10 weeks gestation. **There is no risk to the fetus.**

The test picks up small pieces of placental chromosomes circulating in Mum's blood.

An extra chromosome in the placenta indicates a risk to the fetus of having the same extra chromosome (but not always).

The **MaterniT21 Core** test looks for extra copies of three chromosomes, and also the Y chromosome for fetal sex:

- Chromosome 21 (Down syndrome)
- Chromosome 18 (Edwards syndrome)
- Chromosome 13 (Patau syndrome)
- Y chromosome present means a boy
- Y chromosome absent means a girl

Please tell us if you don't want to know the fetal sex. The report will say "opt out".

The test is reported as POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.

A positive result just means the lab has found an extra placental chromosome. If the result is positive your referrer will discuss having a diagnostic test called amniocentesis to confirm or exclude whether the fetus also has an extra copy of the chromosome.

The test is very accurate but isn't perfect. That's because we're testing placental not fetal chromosomes. NIPS is a screening test not a diagnostic test.

A false positive is when the test correctly finds an extra chromosome in the placenta but the fetus isn't affected. This happens in about 1 in every 1000 tests. We do see a small number every year.

A false negative is when the test correctly identifies normal placental chromosomes but the fetus has an extra copy. This is much less frequent at about 1 in every 10,000 tests.

Our usual turn around time is 6-8 calendar days, so about 1 week.

Your test is sent to Sequenom Laboratories, San Diego, California. Sometimes the lab has to do some extra work with the sample and results can take a bit longer.

We send the report to your referrer and they will contact you with the result.

A very small number of tests can't generate a result (<0.5%).

This is usually when the placental DNA level in Mum's blood is too low. We will repeat the test in 2 weeks, no additional cost.

The **MaterniT21 PLUS** and **MaterniT GENOME** tests add additional chromosomes and we are happy to discuss with you.

Please contact us with any questions