

Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) - Self Pay

Nova Scotia care providers have identified a need for additional information and guidance with assisting pregnant persons who choose non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT). The following information has been provided as a measure to meet this need.

Please note: the information related to sample collection locations is applicable only to the Dynacare vendor and is accurate as of the date on this document / date posted to the RCP website. Additional locations are evolving and are being added over time. Care providers are encouraged to contact the specific vendor for additional details regarding sample collection locations.

It is recommended that all pregnant persons are offered the option to accept or decline screening for fetal aneuploidy¹. There are currently two tests available for aneuploidy screening: **Maternal Serum Testing (MST)** and **Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT)**.

1. **MST** is funded by provincial health insurance and consists of two blood tests- the first between 9-13w6d and the second between 15w-20w6d. If the patient misses the first trimester window, the second trimester draw can still be ordered.
 - a. Order forms are here: First trimester <https://iwkhealth.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/MST-1st-trimester.pdf> Second Trimester <https://iwkhealth.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/MST-2nd-trimester.pdf>
2. **NIPT** evaluates fetal DNA in maternal circulation and can be done as early as 10 weeks gestation. It is self-pay unless a patient qualifies for a provincially funded test. In addition to providing an assessment of aneuploidy risk, it can also screen for sex chromosome variations and microdeletions. NIPT is provided by independent companies.

Who qualifies for a provincially funded NIPT?



Pregnant persons in Nova Scotia will be offered funded NIPT under the following circumstances:

1. A previous pregnancy affected with Trisomy 13, 18 or 21 (in the first trimester, as early as 10 weeks gestation). This is in lieu of standard screening using the MST and nuchal translucency assessments. To access funded NIPT, these patients must be referred to Medical Genetics or a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist.
2. Standard screening has found a person to be at **increased risk** of Down Syndrome. Based on the results of standard screening, the individual will be seen by either Medical Genetics or by a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist and will be offered the option of funded NIPT in lieu of diagnostic testing (CVS or amniocentesis). A referral is not necessary.

For additional patient information regarding prenatal screening go to: <https://iwkhealth.ca/pregnancy/prenatal-screening>

¹Audibert, F., De Bie, I., et al (2017). Joint SOGC-CCMG clinical practice guideline No. 348: Update on Prenatal Screening for Fetal Aneuploidy, Fetal Anomalies, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes. Retrieved from: [https://www.iogc.com/article/S1701-2163\(17\)30070-1/pdf](https://www.iogc.com/article/S1701-2163(17)30070-1/pdf)

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Company	Test	Cost	Sample Collection & Turn-Around-Time	Contact	Requisitions
	Aneuploidy	\$350 (USD)	<i>Contact company to coordinate location for sample collection.</i> 7-10 days	Hana Sroka – hsroka@natera.com	Paper or electronic
	Addition of 22	\$425 (USD)			
	Full Microdeletion	\$525 (USD)			
	Carrier Testing	\$400 (USD)			
	Aneuploidy + add-ons if desired-fetal sex, 22q (all-inclusive)	\$349 (CAD)	<i>*See table below for Dynacare locations for sample collection.</i> 7-10 days	Connor Castrataro - CastrataroC@dynacare.ca	Paper
	Carrier Testing single	\$695			
	Carrier Testing couple	\$1300			

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**The following table provides locations for Dynacare sample collection only and is accurate as of the date on this document / date posted to the RCP website. Additional locations are evolving and are being added over time. This information can be accessed via the Dynacare contact listed above.*



Dynacare®

Harmony NIPT
Sample Collection Locations

● Dynacare Laboratory and Health Services Centre

● External Partner

	Location	City	Address	Contact
●	OAB Blood Collection		Mobile phlebotomy, based in King's County	Phone: 902.680.8747 Email: oabblood@gmail.com
●	East Coast Mobile Medical	Dartmouth	101, Ilsley Ave. Unit 1 Dartmouth, NS B3B 1S8	Website: https://ecmm.ca/ Email: bookings@ecmm.ca Phone: 902.481.3699 or 800.294.2971
●	Family Focus Clinic	Halifax	5991, Spring Garden Rd. Halifax, NS B3H 1Y6	-Email: familyfocusvirtualcare@gmail.com with "NIPT Test" in the subject line to register for a collection appointment. -Our MOA will receive the request for the appointment via email, reply with a confirmation email appointment date and time, remind the patient to drink plenty of water and bring the req. with them for their appointment. -A reminder/confirmation personal phone call is made the day before.