

California Prenatal Screening Program

Prenatal screening and Turner syndrome

What you should know when your blood screening result suggests there is **an increased chance** that your fetus has a genetic condition called Turner syndrome.



Turner syndrome

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Prenatal screening result and Turner syndrome

The result of your screening **suggests** that your fetus has an **increased chance** of a genetic condition called Turner syndrome. With this screening result, follow-up testing can help give more information.

Why have you been given this booklet to read?

As part of your prenatal care, you consented to a cell-free DNA (cfDNA) prenatal screening through the California Prenatal (PNS) Screening Program. Your blood was sent to a laboratory to check for certain genetic conditions in your fetus. Your provider likely shared your screening results and this booklet so that you can learn about the follow-up services available to you.

Does this screening result mean that the fetus has Turner syndrome?

No. Prenatal screening finds fetuses with an **increased chance** for Turner syndrome. More testing is needed to know for certain.

What is Turner syndrome?

Turner syndrome is a genetic condition that can cause mild developmental delays, learning disabilities, heart defects, and infertility. The signs of Turner syndrome are different from one person to another. Some people have no obvious signs. Some pregnancies affected by Turner syndrome can have serious results. For example, miscarriages are more common in pregnancies carrying a fetus with Turner syndrome.

Turner syndrome occurs when there is only one X chromosome. Most people either have two X chromosomes (XX) or one X and one Y chromosome (XY).

Your provider might refer to these as “sex chromosomes.” Chromosomes help the fetus develop and are found in nearly every cell in the body.

What can you do next?

There are follow-up tests that can tell you with more certainty if the fetus has Turner syndrome. You decide if you want to have one of these tests.

What follow-up services are available?

Your prenatal care provider will offer follow-up services, to tell you with more certainty if the fetus has Turner syndrome.

Follow-up services include:

- Genetic Counseling
- Ultrasound
- Diagnostic tests: chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis

Follow-up services are offered at locations that specialize in these services. These locations are called state-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Centers.

Follow-up services are available at no additional charge if you get screening through the California PNS Program. You decide if you want the follow-up services.

What is genetic counseling?

Genetic counseling is the first service provided at a state-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Center. A genetic counselor will discuss your screening result and what it means. You will also review your family’s health history.

The genetic counselor will give you information about the other follow-up services available to you.

These include an ultrasound and chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis.

Be sure to ask the genetic counselor any questions you might have. You decide if you want any additional follow-up after genetic counseling.

Ultrasound (sonogram)

Providers with special training can do a high-level ultrasound as early as **12 weeks of pregnancy**. It gives a detailed picture and checks the age of the fetus.

An ultrasound might identify some birth defects. However, it is not a way to find out for certain if your fetus has Turner syndrome. You can have this ultrasound even if you decide not to have chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis.

Chorionic villus sampling

Chorionic villus sampling (CVS) is a diagnostic test that can tell if the fetus has Turner syndrome. CVS can be done through the PNS Program from **10 weeks through the end of 14 weeks of pregnancy**.

For this test, an experienced provider removes a small amount of placental tissue using a very thin needle or tube. The fetus is not touched. The tissue usually contains the same chromosomes as the fetus. The chromosomes are counted and examined.

CVS is a test done by a medical expert at a state-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Center. The risk of miscarriage due to CVS is less than 1 in 450. The CVS result is usually ready in two weeks.

Amniocentesis

Amniocentesis is a diagnostic test that can tell if the fetus has Turner syndrome. This test can be done through the PNS Program starting from **15 weeks until 24 weeks of pregnancy**.

For this test, an experienced provider takes a small amount of the fluid around the fetus with a thin needle. The fetus is not touched. This fluid contains cells from the fetus. The chromosomes in these cells are counted and examined.

Amniocentesis is a test done by a medical expert at a state-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Center. The risk of miscarriage due to amniocentesis is less than 1 in 900. The amniocentesis result is usually ready in two weeks.

What if a test confirms your fetus has Turner syndrome?

A provider or genetic counselor will give you information about Turner syndrome and how it could affect your family.

Your health care provider can discuss your options for the pregnancy with you. When reviewing your options, please remember that the decision on what to do is entirely up to you.

Medi-Cal and private insurance must cover all PNS Program fees, with only a few exceptions. Referral for additional medical care and support services are available, but these costs are not covered by the PNS Program.

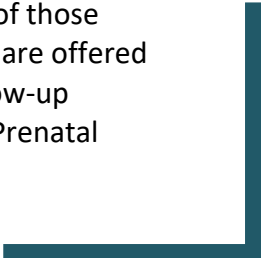
For more information, please visit:

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The California Prenatal Screening Program

is a statewide program offered by prenatal care providers to all pregnant individuals in California. Prenatal screening uses a pregnant individual's blood samples to screen for certain genetic conditions and birth defects in their fetus. Individuals with a fetus found to have an increased chance of one of those genetic condition or birth defects are offered genetic counseling and other follow-up services through state-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Centers.





[California Prenatal Screening Program](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PNS)

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California Department of Public Health

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