

PRENATAL SCREENING PROGRAM

WI-17 Provision of blood samples

Instructions to Gynaecologists

The Center for Preventive Paediatrics "Americos Argyriou" (CPP) provides blood test results for the biochemical markers PAPP-A and F-βHCG as used in prenatal screening for Trisomies 21, 18 and 13 in single and twin pregnancies, in the 1st trimester of pregnancy. A risk assessment of the pregnancy is given by Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF-UK) accredited professionals, using a combination of biochemical markers with maternal age and Nuchal Translucency (NT) measurement (with or without surplus ultrasonographic markers).

The CPP provides blood collecting tubes, request forms, envelopes and patient information leaflets together with the use of the daily courier service of GAP Akis Express to deliver all samples to the CPP.

It is important for the CPP to receive all blood samples on the day of blood collection. Therefore, always ensure that there is enough time ahead for the blood sample to arrive. You should expect to receive the results within 5 working days from the day the sample was delivered to the Center.

Please consider the points indicated below:

1. Ensure that the pregnancy is between 9 and 13⁺⁶ weeks by CRL. Maternal blood collection is preferable during week 10.
2. It is important that both sonographic and biochemical markers are used for the final risk outcome as they are not significantly correlated to one another and will give a higher diagnostic sensitivity when combined.
3. Inform the patient about the scope of the screening test including its strengths and weaknesses and complete **ALL** the details on the request form provided by the CPP (**F-SOP-01/19-0**).
4. Fill in the following details on the tube: Patient name, Date and Time of blood collection. Ensure the collection tube has not passed its expiration date.
5. Collect between 3-5ml of blood in a tube with clot activator and gel separator (red cap) and invert several times to mix.
6. Allow the blood to stand for 30 minutes before centrifuging to separate the serum. Samples that have not been centrifuged are also accepted by the CPP.

7. Fill in and **sign** the request form.
8. Place the request form and the sample in the brown padded envelope provided by the CPP and seal using the clip attached. Do not tape or staple the envelope.
9. Encourage the use of the courier service AKIS Express, under contract with the CPP. This courier operates under specific work instructions given by the CPP covering the receipt, storage and transportation of the samples at the specified times to the CPP.

IMPORTANT

- Clearly print all details on the request form and tube so as to avoid errors due to illegible handwriting.
- The sample can be hand delivered to the Center between 08:00- 14:30hrs Monday-Friday for those living in Limassol or sent via courier service via local branches before the time indicated in the table below:

NICOSIA	LARNACA	FAMAGUSTA	PAPHOS
Kennedy Street 10:45a.m.	Chrysopolitissa 11:15a.m.	Paralimni 8:30a.m.	Ellados Street 10:15a.m
Latsia 10:00a.m.	Drosia 11:00a.m.		Polis Chrysochous 08:30a.m.
Naxou Street 10:30a.m	Aradippou 12:00p.m.		
Ayios Dometios 9:45a.m			

- The CPP forwards results **only** to the referring gynaecologist. The CPP requests that other arrangements regarding the forwarding of results to third parties be made by the referring gynaecologist.
- Inform the CPP to provide you with more consumables before your supplies become exhausted.
- It is important the patient attends to her scheduled NT appointment even if her screening results are unavailable up until that time.