



THE CENTER FOR PREVENTIVE PAEDIATRICS "AMERICOS ARGYRIOU"

12, Stratigou Makrygianni Str., 3022 Limassol

P.O. Box 56617, CY3309 Limassol, Cyprus

Tel: 77772422 | Fax: 25 346894 | Website: www.cpp.org.cy | Email: info@cpp.org.cy

Working hours 08:00 until 15:30, Monday to Friday

WI-17

**COLLECTION AND PROVISION OF MATERNAL BLOOD SAMPLES
INSTRUCTIONS TO OBSTETRICIANS/GYNAECOLOGISTS**

PRENATAL SCREENING PROGRAM

The Center for Preventive Paediatrics "Americos Argyriou" (CPP) provides blood test results for the bio-markers PAPP-A and f-βHCG, within the framework of the Prenatal Screening Program in the 1st trimester of pregnancy, for the detection of Trisomies 21, 18 and 13 in singleton and twin pregnancies.

An estimation of the risk of the pregnancy for the trisomies can be given by obstetricians, gynaecologists and ultrasonographers (e.g. accredited by the Fetal Medicine Foundation, UK) using a combination of the biochemical markers provided by the CPP, the maternal age and the foetal nuchal translucency (NT) measurement (with or without other markers).

To all collaborating obstetricians & gynaecologists, the CPP provides the following **FREE OF CHARGE**:

- **Measurement of bio-markers** PAPP-A and f-βHCG
- **Padded envelopes** for the safe transportation of the maternal blood samples and request forms
- **Tubes** for blood collection
- **(Pads of) request-forms (F-SOP-01/19)**, to be completed for each sample collected and sent to the CPP for processing.
- **Courier service** by GAP Akis Express for the safe transportation of the blood samples.

ALL blood samples should arrive at the CPP on the same day as the blood draw.

For the inhabitants of the Limassol district, samples can be delivered in person to the CPP from Monday-Friday between 08:00 – 15:00.

For the districts of Nicosia, Larnaca, Famagusta and Pafos, the samples should be sent to Limassol via the collaborating courier service provided by, **GAP Akis Express**.

The [timetable of daily departures](#) for the same-day delivery to Limassol from the **specific courier branches** is provided by the CPP's website and tabulated below:

NICOSIA		LARNACA		FAMAGUSTA		PAFOS	
Kennedy:	10:45 am	Chrysopolitissa:	11:15 am	Paralimni:	08:30 am	Ellados:	10:15 am
Latsia:	10:00 am	Drosia:	11:00 am			Polis	
						Chrysochous	08:30 am
Naxou:	10:30 am	Aradippou:	12:00 am				
Ayios	09:45 am						
Dometios:							



Important steps/ Information:

1. Ensure the gestational age of the pregnancy is between 9 and 13⁺⁶ weeks via CRL measurement (22 – 84 mm) for blood sampling, with **preference to the 10th week of gestation.**
2. The maximum sensitivity or detection rate of the prenatal screening program is achieved when all the validated markers are used in combination. **Avoid issuing a risk estimate based upon the use of incomplete marker data.**
3. Ensure that the patient is briefed on the prenatal screening examination offered by the CPP in the first-trimester , including its no-cost availability, benefits, and limitations.
4. Before taking blood from the patient, ensure that the collection tube has not surpassed its expiry date. **Clearly mark the patient's name and blood collection date on the tube.**
5. **Collect between 3-5ml of whole blood** in the clot activator tubes with a gel separator (red or yellow caps) provided and invert several times to mix.
6. **In the event that a sample cannot be sent to the CPP on the same day as the blood draw, then it can be prepared for next day delivery by centrifuging*** the sample and **storing overnight** in the refrigerator (between +2 and +8°C).

**Allow the sample to stand for 30 minutes before centrifuging. Do not aliquot the separated serum in a secondary tube.*

7. Complete and sign/seal the request form provided (**F-SOP-01/19**).
8. Place the request form and the sample in the brown padded envelope provided by the CPP and secure using the special pin attached. **Do not seal the envelope using sticky tape or staples.**
9. **Inform** the patient that **sample delivery** to Limassol is through use of the courier service only provided by **GAP Akis Express.**
10. The results of the bio-markers are provided via email to the referring obstetrician/gynaecologist within 5 working days of sample receipt.