

# Checks and screening tests you may be offered in pregnancy



During your pregnancy you'll be offered a range of tests, including blood tests and ultrasound scans. These tests are designed to help make your pregnancy safer, to assess the development and wellbeing of you and your baby, or to screen for particular conditions.

You don't have to have any test. It's important that you understand the purpose of all tests so that you can make an informed decision about whether to have them. You'll be given written information about the screening tests offered and have an opportunity to discuss these with a health professional. Additional information can be found on

<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/pregnancy/pages/antenataltestsandscreening.aspx#talk>. A leaflet called 'Screening Tests for you and your baby' can be downloaded from [www.screening.nhs.uk](http://www.screening.nhs.uk) or may be obtained from your midwife

## Key Points about screening:

- As soon as you think or know you are pregnant contact either Lewisham Direct Access to Midwives service on **07554 115649**, email [LewishamMidwives@nhs.net](mailto:LewishamMidwives@nhs.net) or contact your GP. It is important that if at all possible you have your screening tests by 10 weeks of pregnancy.
- Included in the tests you will be offered are tests for blood inherited disorders, the most common of which are Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassaemia. If your pregnancy blood test identifies you as being a carrier for one of these disorders, it will be important that your partner (father of the baby) is tested and this also needs to be done as soon as possible and ideally by 10 weeks of pregnancy. Testing by 10 weeks of pregnancy is important to provide you with all the information you need to make decisions about your further options. More information is available on: [www.sicklecellsociety.org](http://www.sicklecellsociety.org) or [www.ukts.org](http://www.ukts.org)
- University Hospital Lewisham now offers the Down's Syndrome Screening combined screening test. This test can only be offered between 11 weeks and 13 weeks of pregnancy. Your midwife or GP will need to organize this scan for you therefore it is important that you see a midwife or GP as early as possible in pregnancy.

- You will also be offered other screening tests like screening for infections. Information about all the screening tests offered to you in pregnancy is available on: <http://www.screening.nhs.uk/annbpublications> from an organisation called Antenatal Results and Choices(ARC) on [www.arc-uk](http://www.arc-uk)

## Screening Timeline: Optimum times for testing

