

## PRENATAL GENETIC SCREENING TESTS ONLINE RESOURCES

Most babies are born healthy! However, it's natural to want to know more about the health of *your* unborn baby. Several prenatal screening tests have been developed for this very purpose. Information on these tests and their availability in your area can be obtained from many hospitals that offer prenatal genetic screening tests and from the online resources listed below. Reviewing this information and talking with your health care provider and/or a genetics counsellor can help you decide whether or not testing is right for you. Remember, the decision is *yours*.

### **Fetal Medicine Foundation of Canada: [www.fmfcanada.com](http://www.fmfcanada.com)**

As part of Fetal Medicine International, this organization provides information on prenatal screening and diagnosis, including a Frequently Asked Question section that covers First Trimester Screening, Second Trimester Maternal Serum Screening, Fetal Ultrasound, Chorionic Villus Sampling and Amniocentesis.

### **March of Dimes: <http://marchofdimes.com>**

March of Dimes strives to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Its online Pregnancy and Newborn Education Centre provides detailed information on birth defects, genetic conditions and genetic counselling.

### **IWK Health Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia: [www.iwk.nshealth.ca](http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca)**

This site answers questions on medical genetics and offers information about what services are available in the Maritimes.

### **Ontario MSS Program: [www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/)**

This site provides comprehensive information on Ontario's Maternal Serum Screening (MSS) program including a list of Ontario Genetic Centres and a patient pamphlet available in 9 languages—English, French, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese—at:

- [www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/pamphlet.htm](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/pamphlet.htm)  
An additional 9 languages—Arabic, Cree, Farsi [Persian], Hindi, Ojibway, Punjabi, Somalian, Tamil, Urdu—are provided in paper format.

Information on the newer prenatal screening options is available at:

- Integrated Prenatal Screening: [www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/ips.htm](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/ips.htm)
- Nuchal Translucency: [www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/nuchal.htm](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/nuchal.htm)
- First Trimester Screening: [www.lhc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/first\\_tr.htm](http://www.lhc.on.ca/programs/rmgc/mss/first_tr.htm)

### **Mount Sinai Hospital Prenatal Diagnosis & Medical Genetics: [www.mountsinai.on.ca/pdmg/Tests](http://www.mountsinai.on.ca/pdmg/Tests)**

Through its Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics Program, Mount Sinai Hospital aims to simplify genetics information to the community by providing an online discussion of genetic counselling, Nuchal Translucency, First Trimester Screening, MSS, Amniocentesis, Chorionic Villus Sampling and Detailed Ultrasound.

### **Thunder Bay District Health Unit: [www.tbdhu.com/gateways/FactSheets.htm](http://www.tbdhu.com/gateways/FactSheets.htm)**

This site provides comprehensive fact sheets on MSS, CVS and Amniocentesis. Local contact details to obtain further information are included on each sheet.

### **University of Manitoba: [www.umanitoba.ca/womens\\_health/triple.htm](http://www.umanitoba.ca/womens_health/triple.htm)**

Online information on Maternal Serum Screening in Manitoba is available on this site, including local contact details to obtain further information.

### **Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia:**

#### **[www.cw.bc.ca/matserumscreen/default.asp](http://www.cw.bc.ca/matserumscreen/default.asp)**

This site offers a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions section that covers MSS, Amniocentesis, Level II Ultrasound, and the difference between a screening and diagnostic test.

### **Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors: [www.cagc-accg.ca/](http://www.cagc-accg.ca/)**

Genetic counsellors provide health care service available to individuals, families, or couples. Genetic counselling involves the provision of medical information about genetic disorders and risks that can help individuals make personal decisions about their health, pregnancies, or their child's health care.

### **Canadian College of Medical Geneticists: [ccmg.medical.org/](http://ccmg.medical.org/)**

The mission of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists is to establish and maintain high quality professional and ethical standards of medical genetics services in Canada. Visit this site for guidelines in prenatal diagnosis and carrier screening.

