

## Comparing First Trimester Screening and Second Trimester Maternal Serum Screening (MSS)

	<b>First Trimester Screen</b>	<b>MSS Screen</b>
<b>When is it performed?</b>	11-14 weeks (blood may be collected as early as 9 weeks)	15-23 weeks
<b>What is involved?</b>	Ultrasound and blood test	Blood test
<b>What does it screen for?</b>	Down Syndrome Trisomy 18 Trisomy 13	Down syndrome Trisomy 18 Open Spina Bifida Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome
<b>What is the detection rate? *</b>	Down Syndrome: 91% Trisomy 18/13: 95%	Down Syndrome: 80% Trisomy 18: 60% Open Spina Bifida: 80%
<b>What is the screen positive rate? *</b>	5%	5%

*\* Detection rates and screen positives rates vary by laboratory*

### **Benefits of First Trimester Screening:**

- Available earlier in pregnancy
- Ultrasound may show an increased risk for heart defects or other birth defects

### **Benefits of MSS screening:**

- Less expensive
- Screens for Down Syndrome, trisomy 18 and open neural tube defects in one step

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. Can I still have screening for spina bifida if I have first trimester screening?  
Yes. In the second trimester, screening for spina bifida is done by a blood test called AFP-only or by targeted ultrasound.
2. Should I have both First Trimester Screening and MSS screening?  
No. There is no benefit to screening for Down syndrome and Trisomy 18 twice.
3. Could these tests pick up anything else?  
Yes. Sometimes prenatal screening will show an increased risk for other rare conditions. You will meet with a genetic counselor or other health care provider to discuss what that could mean for your pregnancy.

*Revised November 9, 2009.*

### *Notification to Users*

*These algorithms are designed to assist the primary care provider in the clinical management of a variety of problems that occur during pregnancy. They should not be interpreted as a standard of care, but instead represent guidelines for management. Variation in practices should take into account such factors as characteristics of the individual patient, health resources, and regional experience with diagnostic and therapeutic modalities.*

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