

NIPPT FAQs

Is Non-Invasive Pre-Natal Testing Safe?

Yes. Non-Invasive Pre-Natal Testing involves taking a blood sample from the mother, and poses no risk to the unborn child, this is much safer than invasive procedures such as amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling.

Who needs to provide a sample?

We require blood samples from the pregnant mother and the alleged father(s). Alleged fathers can also provide buccal swabs

How many weeks pregnant do I need to be?

Testing is validated from 7 weeks Gestational Age. However optimal testing is from 10 weeks Gestational Age.

Will the results be inaccurate if I test too early?

No. If you provide a sample too early, or you have incorrectly calculated your gestational age, there will not be enough fetal DNA for us to perform testing. This is why optimal testing is from 10 weeks gestational age. In these cases we will request a recollection at a later gestational age, to ensure there is more fetal DNA in the mother's blood. To determine your gestational age contact Paternity For Life or your doctor.

Why does my sample need to be re-collected?

Low fetal DNA concentration

The concentration of fetal DNA in maternal blood increases with gestational age and it varies in different people. Biological factors including a high BMI and poor trophoblast implantation are associated with a low fetal fraction. There is also variation in how quickly any given fetus will grow, just as there is variation in how quickly children and adults may grow and develop throughout their lives. As a pregnancy progresses and the fetus grows larger, the amount of circulating fetal DNA will naturally increase. A re-collection at a later gestational age will often obtain a results. This is why optimal testing is from 10 weeks gestational age.

Haemolysis

Depending on shipment conditions and the time taken for the sample to arrive at the laboratory there is a possibility that the sample will be compromised due to haemolysis. Haemolysis is damage to red blood cells and can be caused by a difficult bleed/collection, inadequate mixing of the blood sample with the preservative in the tube, delayed transport or extreme temperatures. In such cases you will be contacted for a re-collection.

Low blood volume

In some cases collectors will have difficulty in drawing enough blood. Where the volume of blood received by the laboratory is too low to perform testing, a recollection will be required.

Can I test an additional alleged father?

Yes. You can either choose to test multiple alleged fathers at once, or start with the most likely or most willing to provide a sample and then tests additional fathers if the results come back negative for the first. When testing additional alleged father's at a later date, we do not need to re-collect the mother's sample, we can use the results already on file.

Can I do Non-Invasive Pre-natal Paternity testing if I am expecting Twins?

Yes. However we need this confirmed by ultrasound and whether the twins are identical or fraternal twins. Gestational age must be >10 weeks.

For identical twins we require:

- 1x mother's blood sample
- 1x alleged father sample

For fraternal twins or where the zygosity of the twins is unknown we require:

- 1x mother's blood sample
- Samples from all possible alleged fathers

Can I do Non-Invasive Pre-natal Paternity testing if the child is being born via Surrogacy?

Yes. However the pregnancy must be singleton and the gestational age must be >10 weeks.

We require:

- 1x blood sample (Streck tube) from the surrogate mother
- 1x blood sample (Streck tube) from the biological mother
- 1x sample from the alleged father

Can I do Non-Invasive Pre-natal Paternity testing if my child was conceived through IVF?

Yes. We can perform testing from 10 weeks.

When can Non-Invasive Pre-natal Paternity testing not be performed?

- The pregnant woman is suffering from cancer, toxemia of pregnancy, has had a blood transfusion, bone marrow or organ transplant, or stem cell therapy.
- The pregnancy is for 3 or more fetuses

Can I use my results from Non-Invasive Pre-natal Paternity testing for legal purposes?

No. Non-Invasive Pre-natal Paternity testing is a non-legal test, however a legally admissible paternity test can be conducted once the child is born. Please contact Paternity For Life to apply.