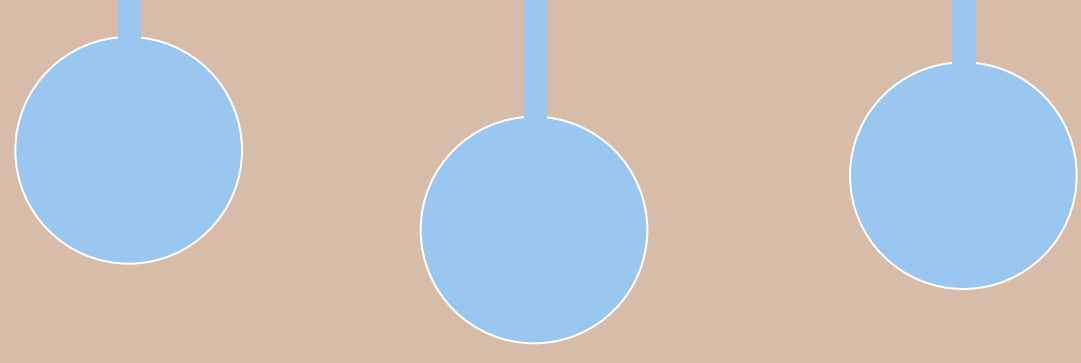


Screening Tests



Prenatal screening tests tell you the chance for the developing baby to have certain conditions. The [California Prenatal Screening Program](#) screens for:

- [Down Syndrome](#) (Trisomy 21)
- [Trisomy 18](#)
- [Open Neural Tube Defects](#) (openings in the spine or skull, like Spina Bifida)
- [Abdominal Wall Defects](#) (openings in the belly)

Benefits of Screening

Prenatal Screening can give you some reassurance about the pregnancy through a simple blood test.

In the California Prenatal Screening Program, some women will have a “[screen positive](#)” test result. This result means an increased risk for a birth defect. For these women, the Program will cover follow-up services including [genetic counseling](#) and additional testing, if desired.

Limitations of Screening

Screening results are not 100% accurate. Some [birth defects](#) may be missed. Women with a positive screening result should not assume the baby is affected. They should consider further diagnostic testing.

Types of Prenatal Screening in CA

California Prenatal Screen	Cell-Free DNA, aka NIPT
Blood Test(s), possible Ultrasound	Blood Test
Covers some chromosome conditions and neural tube defects	Covers some chromosome conditions
Program covers follow-up	Follow-up is independent of test
Integrated screen: 90-95% sensitive for Down syndrome, varying by age	Very sensitive (95-99%) for Down syndrome
Best for women at low to average risk	Best for women at higher risk (e.g. over 35)

Screening tests are good options for women who have average risk or who are not sure if they want to get a diagnostic test. Your doctor or a genetic counselor can help you see if a screening test is right for you.