



Genetic Screening - eFTS

What is eFTS?

The enhanced first trimester screen (eFTS) is an OHIP funded screen offered to all pregnant people. It involves an ultrasound and a blood test, both safe for baby. eFTS detects most pregnancies with trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome) and trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome).

eFTS cannot detect all pregnancies with these chromosome differences. This is just a screen, meaning that a result gives a higher risk or lower risk result. If the result is “screen positive”, you will be offered further steps. The ultrasound can give extra information about the baby's health, including some serious birth defects.

Should I do this? Do I have to do this?

There is no right or wrong answer on whether you would like to proceed with this genetic screen. It is completely optional! For some families, extra information is helpful to know if they are having a baby with Down Syndrome for planning. For some families, it may affect the decision to proceed or not with the pregnancy.

When is it done?

eFTS can be done between 11 weeks and 2 days up to 13 weeks and 3 days of pregnancy. It is a time sensitive screen which is why your health care provider will talk to you about it early in pregnancy. The ultrasound and blood work are done the same day. In Marathon, this specific ultrasound can only be done in Thunder Bay (called the nuchal translucency.)

If you decide you would like to proceed with eFTS screening, your health care provider will provide you with a requisition. You will bring the requisition on the day of your ultrasound appointment. You will receive an appointment time for this. After the ultrasound, you will do the bloodwork at the laboratory.

How long does it take to get results?

It can take approximately 7 working days minimum for a result to be received. If there is a “screen positive” your health provider will call you otherwise the result will be discussed at your next appointment.

Who should not have eFTS?

- Already have an “low risk” result from NIPT, had a “vanishing” twin / co-twin demise, are expecting more than one baby (twins, triplets, etc)

<https://www.prenatalscreeningontario.ca/en/psa/prenatal-screening-options/enhanced-first-trimester-screening-efts.aspx>

