

# Maternal Serum Screening

---

## DESCRIPTION:

- Alpha Fetoprotein test screens for open neural tube defects (spina bifida).
- Triple , Quad and Serum Integrated Screen are used to assess a pregnancy for increased risk of neural tube defects, Down syndrome, and Trisomy 18. Extremely high or low serum levels of the analytes are reported.

## METHOD OF ANALYSIS:

- Chemiluminescent Immunoassay
- Risk assessment is dependent on accuracy of patient demographics, especially gestational age.

## SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS:

- 2-3 mL of serum in a no additive red top tube or gel barrier tube. Submit specimen in leak-proof transport tube provided by Shodair.
- Collect serum for AFP, Triple and Quad tests between 15 and 22 weeks of gestation, with 16 weeks being the optimal time for specimen collection.
- For PAPP-A, serum must be collected between 10 and 13 weeks gestation.
- A report will not be released until the Quad Screen is completed. All 5 biochemical values are needed to calculate the Down Syndrome risk using the Serum Integrated Screening software program.
- Room temperature, refrigerate or freeze.
- Stability of samples: After separation from cells: ambient: 24 hours; refrigerated: 1 week; frozen: 1 year. Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles.
- The following information is required and must accompany the sample for test interpretation: patient's date of birth, current weight, race, LMP date or gestational age on ultrasound date, number of fetus present, insulin-dependent diabetes status, if 35 yrs of age or older, is this a first pregnancy, age of donor if a donor egg is involved in an IVF pregnancy.

## TEST CPT CODES:

CPT 82105 AFP only  
CPT 82105 AFP  
CPT 84702 hCG  
CPT 82677 Estriol  
CPT 86336 Inhibin-A  
CPT 84163 PAPP-A

*Discounts from list price are available for institutional billing under contractual arrangement with the laboratory. Contact Ellen Livers at 800-447-6614 ext 7523.*