

# SCREENING FOR FETAL ABNORMALITIES

There is a two-step process to check for Down syndrome and neural tube defects.

The first step is called **SCREENING** because it sorts out which women have a lower chance and which women have an increased chance of having a baby with one of these problems.

This first step tells a woman about her individual chances, her own 'risk' result.



Women should come early to the health centre (before 12 weeks).

# 1



Blood Test  
9-14 weeks

Ultrasound  
11-14 weeks



or



Blood Test  
14-20 weeks

Normal pregnancy care - NO SCREENING

# 2



Get results from midwife or doctor up to 2 weeks later.

**Increased RISK**

*Maybe* there is a problem.

**Low RISK**

Normal pregnancy care.

# DIAGNOSIS

For women who get an increased risk result, they can decide to find out for sure whether the baby has a problem. Checking for sure is the second step, the **DIAGNOSIS**, and is a bit more involved.

# 5



Prepare for a baby with a disability.



End pregnancy.



**No Problems Found**

Continue with normal pregnancy care.



**Down Syndrome or Neural Tube Defect Found**

# 4



Get results from midwife or doctor up to 2 weeks later.

Amniocentesis-checking for sure. 16-20 weeks.



Normal pregnancy care - NO DIAGNOSIS

No further tests for these problems. Women won't find out for sure until birth.

# 3

