



## Labwork in Pregnancy

This is a list of the usual labwork ordered during pregnancy. Ask us if you have any questions concerning a test or result.

### Initial labs done at first prenatal visit

CBC: complete blood count	A measure of your red and white blood cell numbers; helps determine if you are anemic or undergoing infection.
Blood type	Tells us "the letter": A, B, AB or O. Important to know when giving or receiving blood
Rh factor	Is another part of the blood type (Rh+ or Rh-). Most people are Rh+.
Antibody screen	Tells us whether your blood has antibodies that might be harmful to the baby; especially important if you are Rh-.
Serology	A test for syphilis
Rubella titer	A measure of your immunity to rubella (German measles). If you are not immune, you may want to be vaccinated after pregnancy as protection for your next pregnancy.
HbsAg	A measure of your exposure to hepatitis B that may require treatment of the baby after birth
HIV test	Detects antibodies to HIV in your blood. See HIV handout.
Urine test	Test for sugar, protein, and indications of infection in your blood.
Pap smear	Detects changes in cervical cells that may lead to cancer. We do it if you have not had a test or a test with an abnormal result in the past 6-9 months.
Chlamydia and gonorrhea culture	Detects a chlamydia or gonorrhea infection which can be completely symptom-less and cause harm to the baby. Can be refused if you are absolutely certain of monogamous status with your partner for at least a year.
Genetic prenatal risk screen	Done at approximately 16 weeks, this is a blood screening test to detect increased risk of certain genetic defects, including neural tube (open spina bifida or anencephaly), Down Syndrome, or Trisomy 13.

### Testing at 28-38 weeks gestation

Hgb/Hct	Hemoglobin/Hematocrit. Counts red blood cell numbers; helps determine if you are anemic and need iron or B vitamins
Glucose screen (2-Hr. Post-Prandial Serum Glucose)	Screens for gestational diabetes and is the standard of care. The typical GTT involves drinking glucose, drawing blood, and a 2+ hour office visit. Some women object to the glucose drink, preferring to eat a good meal instead. Our preferred method of testing is for you to eat a large meal and we draw your blood 2 hours after. While standards vary for interpreting the results, it can indicate who may need further testing.
Antibody screen	Needed only if mom is Rh-, to help determine if Rhogam can be given to help protect baby or future pregnancies.

### Additional diabetes screening

3-hour GTT: glucose tolerance test	If a woman screens positive to the above glucose challenge, she may have gestational diabetes. A 3-hr GTT helps screen these women who are at higher risk. It is the recommended standard of OB care. See Gestational Diabetes Testing handout.
------------------------------------	---