

North Carolina Women's Hospital
Routine Prenatal Laboratory Studies

This table provides information about laboratory tests routinely done in pregnancy.

At early prenatal visit

Blood Type	Some maternal blood types are associated with risks to the baby
Blood Antibody Screens	Identification of prior exposure to a blood type different from the mothers that might put the baby at risk of low blood counts
Rubella Immunity	Rubella infections in pregnancy can harm the baby; if a woman is not immune to rubella, then we recommend the rubella vaccination post partum
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBSAg)	Children of chronic carriers of Hepatitis B should have special immunizations at birth to prevent hepatitis infections
Complete Blood Count (CBC)	To make sure the mother isn't anemic
Urine Culture	Urinary tract infections can increase the risk of pregnancy
HIV Testing: Recommended (requires signed informed consent)	Identification of women with HIV infection in order to provide treatment to try to prevent the baby becoming infected
Syphilis Testing	Identification of women with syphilis in order to treat her infection and to prevent the baby from becoming infected. State Law
TESTS DONE DURING FIRST SPECULUM AND PELVIC EXAMINATION	
Pap Smear	Done if no pap in the past year. Screening test for cervical cancer
Gonorrhea Culture	Screening for asymptomatic infection. Lowers the risk of infection of the baby and preterm delivery if treated. State Law
Chlamydia PCR	Screening for asymptomatic infection. Lowers the risk of infection of the baby and preterm delivery if treated. State Law

Turn Over for Tests Done Later in Pregnancy

Tests offered later in pregnancy

Maternal Serum Screening (requires signed informed consent)	15-18 Weeks (optional)	ALPHAFETOPROTEIN, ESTRIOL, hCG offered to screen for birth defects like open neural tube defects, down syndrome
Diabetes Screening	High risk patients-1 st trimester Routine- 28 weeks	Increased risk of gestational diabetes in pregnancy
Syphilis	28 weeks	State Law
Gonorrhea	36 weeks	State Law
Chlamydia	36 weeks	State Law
Group B Strep	36 weeks	Screening for GBS carrier to prevent neonatal infection
Repeat Blood Antibody	For Rh negative women	To guide use of rhogam to prevent Rh disease in the fetus