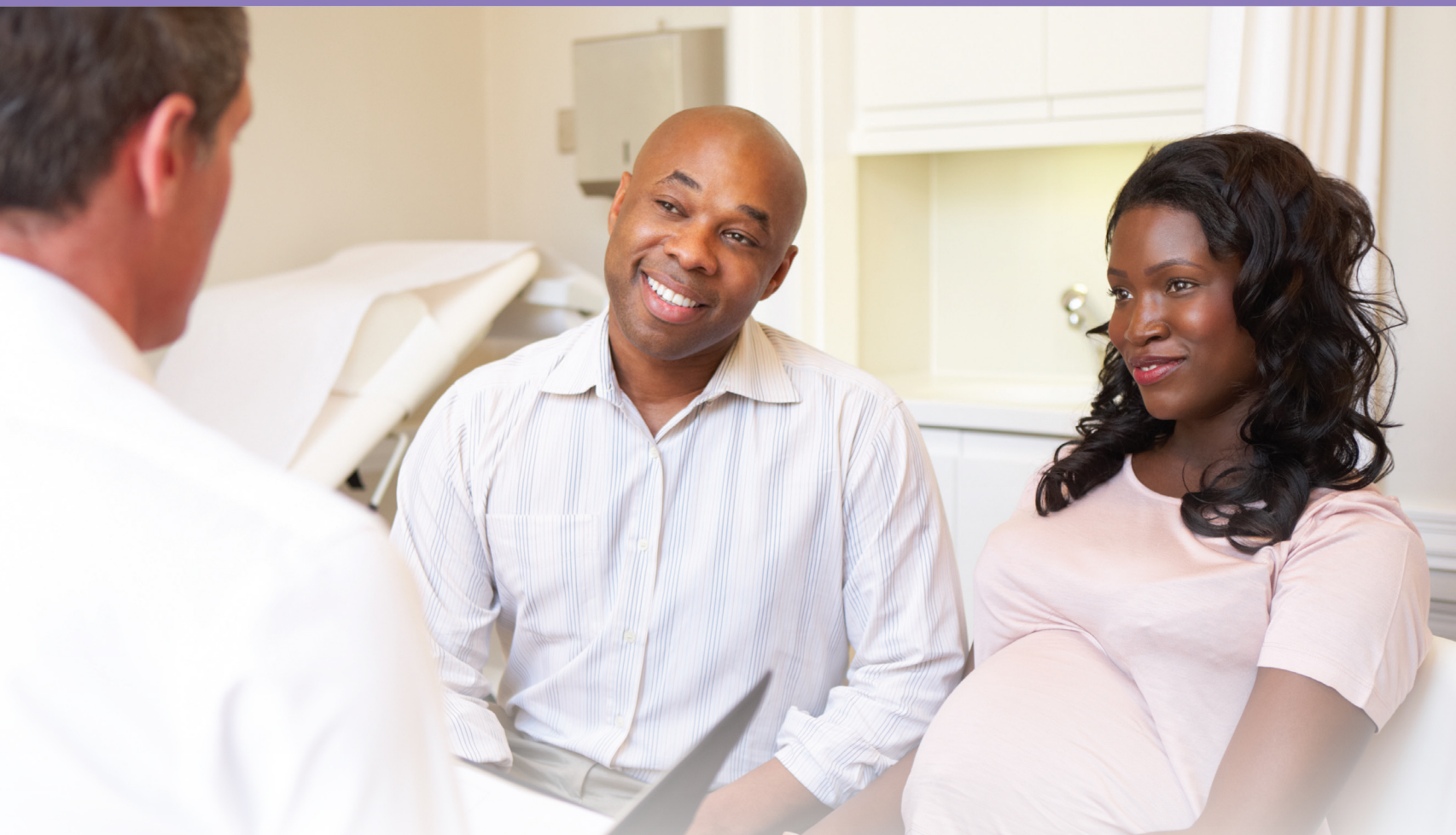


Genetic Prenatal Testing



At Springfield Clinic's Center for Women's Health we offer our patients several options for genetic prenatal screening. The Harmony Prenatal Test and stepwise sequential integrated screening are minimally invasive options for detecting chromosomal abnormalities such as Down syndrome and other genetic conditions.

Genetic screening helps to determine if your baby is at greater risk for certain birth defects. These tests do not diagnose your baby with specific problems. You should discuss your options with your doctor, but the decision to have any of these genetic prenatal screenings is up to you.

In certain cases, patients may proceed with more invasive testing such as chorionic villus sampling (CVS) or an amniocentesis. In this case your physician may perform the test or refer you to a maternal fetal medicine specialist.

Springfield Clinic's Center for Women's Health
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Sequential Integrated Screening

There are three parts to the test: one ultrasound and two blood draws. The ultrasound is a measurement of the back of the baby's neck, called a nuchal translucency (NT), this must take place before the end of your thirteenth week. Sometimes this measurement is difficult or impossible to obtain. If this is the case, you can decide to only do the blood draw part of the test. This test is best for women under 35 years old.

Harmony Prenatal Test

The Harmony Prenatal Test is used to detect three of the common fetal trisomies (Trisomy 21, Trisomy 18 and Trisomy 13) in pregnancies at least 12 weeks gestational age or more. This test is more accurate than the serum testing for detecting trisomies, but does not test for some other birth defects. This test is best for women over 35 years old.

Alpha Fetoprotein 1(AFP1)

Open neural tube defects (spina bifida) increase the level of AFP in the mom's blood. This blood test is sometimes used to determine if spina bifida is present earlier than we can see on a sonogram.

Penta Screen (AFP5)

This may be an option for you if you are too far along in the pregnancy for a sequential integrated screen. This is a maternal blood test done between 16–22 weeks of pregnancy. This test can give us important information about your pregnancy, but is not as accurate as other tests that are offered.