
Genetic Screening

Adapted from Pomegranate Midwives

The goal of genetic screening is to tell a pregnant person their chance of having a baby with Down syndrome, trisomy 18, or an open neural tube defect. There are multiple options for screening that range from being covered by your BC Medical Card to private pay options. It is your choice whether or not to have genetic screening.

For the most up-to-date guide on the screening options that are available, as well as a decision-making guide, please read this [information](#) by Perinatal Services BC.

If you or your family have a history of known genetic variations, your pregnancy may be eligible for a larger variety or type of testing. If your ethnic background has a higher than average incidence of certain diseases (e.g. thalassemia, Tay Sachs, etc.), then you and/or your partner may be offered additional testing. At any time, you may request a consult with a medical geneticist to look into your personal, family and/or ethnic risks, and further review what options you have, as well as what testing is available.

Let your care provider know if any of this might apply your situation.