

Guide to blood tests in pregnancy

Which test?	How is this tested for?	What does it look for?	Why is it important?	When?	Results
Blood group	Blood test	ABO group (your blood type).	In case you need a blood transfusion.	Early pregnancy (booking)	Within 2 weeks - from your midwife
Rhesus D status	Blood test	Rhesus D status - reported as rhesus positive or rhesus negative.	If rhesus negative we will offer anti-D injections to prevent antibodies forming which could be harmful to the baby.	Early pregnancy (booking) and 28 weeks.	With 2 weeks from your midwife
Red cell antibodies	Blood test	Unusual antibodies in the red blood cells.	Unusual antibodies are rare but can cause problems for the baby and requires close monitoring in pregnancy.	Early pregnancy and 28 weeks	Within 2 weeks
Full blood count	Blood test	Iron levels (signs of anaemia).	Anaemia can make you tired. It may require a change in diet iron supplements.	Early pregnancy and 28 weeks	Within 2 weeks
Inherited blood disorders (sickle cell and thalassaemia)	Blood test	Thalassaemia and sickle cell carrier. Will detect other unusual type of red blood cells too - many of which don't cause problems.	If both parents are carriers for unusual haemoglobin there is a chance that the baby could inherit a serious blood disorder. By testing parents, we can tell which couples are at risk of having a baby with a major disorder and offer testing before birth.	Early pregnancy - thalassaemia and sickle cell screening is offered according to your and your baby's father's family origins - your midwife will discuss this with you	Within 2 weeks
Syphilis	Blood test	Syphilis infection	Easy to treat with antibiotics. Untreated can cause serious problems for mother and baby.	Early pregnancy (booking).	Within 2 weeks
HIV	Blood test	HIV infection	If we know a mother is HIV positive we can offer treatment to improve her health and significantly reduce the chance of the baby becoming infected.	Early pregnancy (booking)	Within 2 weeks

Hepatitis B	Blood test	Hep B infection.	If a mother is infected with Hep B we can reduce the chance of the baby becoming infected by offering immunisations after birth.	Early pregnancy (booking)	Within 2 weeks
Rubella	Blood test	Immunity to rubella (German Measles)	If not immune you should avoid contact with German Measles and consider immunisation after birth.	Early pregnancy (booking)	Within 2 weeks
Gestational diabetes	Blood test	Diabetes of pregnancy	2% of women develop diabetes in pregnancy. If diagnosed we can monitor your blood sugar levels and improve the outcome for you and your baby.	28 weeks note - test only offered if indicated. Your midwife will discuss this with you	Within 2 weeks