

Antenatal Screening Team  
St Michaels Hospital  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Date

Dear

Further to our recent telephone consultation in which I gave you your Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) of

**High chance of you baby having Down's syndrome / Edwards and Patau's screening result**

I am writing to summarise our discussion.

I explained the test result to you and we talked about the options available for you and the potential care pathways. Your choices are:

1. Take no further action and continue with your arranged plan of care, which would include an anomaly scan around 20 weeks of pregnancy and a cardiac scan. It is important to note that a scan cannot diagnose Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome; for example 50% of babies with Down's syndrome will not show any signs of the condition on ultrasound scan.  
A 'normal' scan at 20 weeks cannot therefore exclude Down's, Edwards' or Patau's syndromes.
2. You have also been offered a diagnostic test by either Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) or amniocentesis.
  - CVS - takes a sample from the placenta, and can be performed from 11 weeks. Occasionally, depending on where the placenta is situated it might not be possible to perform a CVS. The doctor will discuss your options at this appointment.
  - Amniocentesis - takes a sample from the amniotic fluid and is performed after 15 weeks, usually nearer 16 weeks.

The rapid results from both these tests usually take 3-5 working days. However, sometimes it is necessary to wait for up to 2 weeks for the result. Both these tests carry a miscarriage risk of approximately 1 in 200 (0.5%) and less than 1:1000 risk of infection.

[Further information about CVS and Amniocentesis can be found on the link below:](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cvs-and-amniocentesis-diagnostic-tests-description-in-brief/nhs-fetal-anomaly-screening-programme-chorionic-villus-sampling-cvs-and-amniocentesis-information-for-parents>

Or please access the gov.uk website and then search CVS. The information is the first link that shows.

Antenatal Screening Team  
St Michaels Hospital  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

I recommended contacting Antenatal Results and Choices – 020 7713 7486, [www.arc-uk.org](http://www.arc-uk.org) if requiring further support and discussion with your result.

We talked about the risks and benefits of each option. We also discussed that if you think you might consider ending your pregnancy if you have a condition diagnosed, the termination of pregnancy limit in most cases is 24 weeks.

Once you have come to your decision, if you decide you would like a diagnostic test, please contact us so we can make an appointment for you in the fetal medicine unit.

If you decide to take no further action, please could you let us know.

There is no rush to make a decision and we will support you whatever you decide.

As agreed, if we don't hear back from you, we will call in 1 week.

If you have any further questions regarding your screening test/options or cannot access the links provided please contact the Screening Co-ordinators on [REDACTED]. If you have any questions about your fetal medicine appointment then please call [REDACTED]

With best wishes

Screening Midwives  
St Michaels Hospital