Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust

Dedicated to you

Antenatal screening

Blood Tests Explained

Blood tests are offered in pregnancy to identify if you or your baby is at risk of having or developing a condition that may benefit from treatment, either during pregnancy or after your baby is born. Further tests may sometimes be offered to you and your partner (father of your baby). The midwife will ask you about your history at your booking visit and explain the available blood tests to you. These blood tests are discussed in the leaflet you should have received with your booking appointment 'Screening Tests for you and your baby'. The blood tests you will be routinely offered are:

Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia

Offered to detect if you are a carrier for one of the conditions tested for (sickle cell, thalassaemia, haemoglobin variants); if you are found to be a carrier of one of these, your partner will be offered testing to inform you if your baby is at risk of being affected by one of the conditions.

Blood Group and Rhesus Status

To establish your blood group and to check if you are Rhesus Positive or Negative

Full Blood Count

This test is offered mainly to assess if you are anaemic, in order that we can offer you iron supplements

Infectious Diseases

We offer you testing for the following, if any of these viruses are detected in your blood we can offer you and your baby specialist care and treatment to prevent the virus spreading to your baby:

Hepatitis B

Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV)

Syphili