

<b>DATE:</b>	2022 May 2
<b>TO:</b>	Edmonton Zone, North Zone, Central Zone
<b>FROM:</b>	Genetics and Genomics, North Sector - University of Alberta Hospital
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Change in trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) screening cut-off for first trimester prenatal risk assessments performed in Edmonton</b>

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### Key Message

- **Effective May 2, 2022, the first trimester prenatal risk assessment screening cut-off for trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) will change from an at-term risk of 1:150 to 1:300.**

### Background

- This change in trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) prenatal screening cut-off is to align testing across the province which will improve consistency and patient care.
- First trimester prenatal risk assessment also includes screening for trisomy 18 and trisomy 13. The screening cut-offs for these conditions will remain unchanged (at-term risk of 1:150).

### How this will impact you

- Patients with a trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) prenatal screening risk greater than or equal to 1:300 will have a positive screen result. Genetic counselling and testing, including the options of non-invasive prenatal testing and/or invasive prenatal testing, are available by referral to the Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic (Fax: 780-735-4814).
- Based on a short retrospective study, a manageable increase in the number of patients with a positive screen result for trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) is expected following the screening cut-off change.

### Action Required

- Diagnostic imaging providers performing ultrasounds for first trimester risk assessment should update reporting of risk assessment cut-off for prenatal screening if applicable.

**Effective May 2, 2022**

### Questions/Concerns

- Genetic Counsellors, University of Alberta Hospital, 780-407-7907
- Miranda Brun, PhD, Clinical Biochemist, University of Alberta Hospital, 780-722-4123, [Miranda.Brun2@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Miranda.Brun2@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### Approved by

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