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Guidance

Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening pathway: combined or quadruple test taken before 1 June 2021

Updated 4 May 2021

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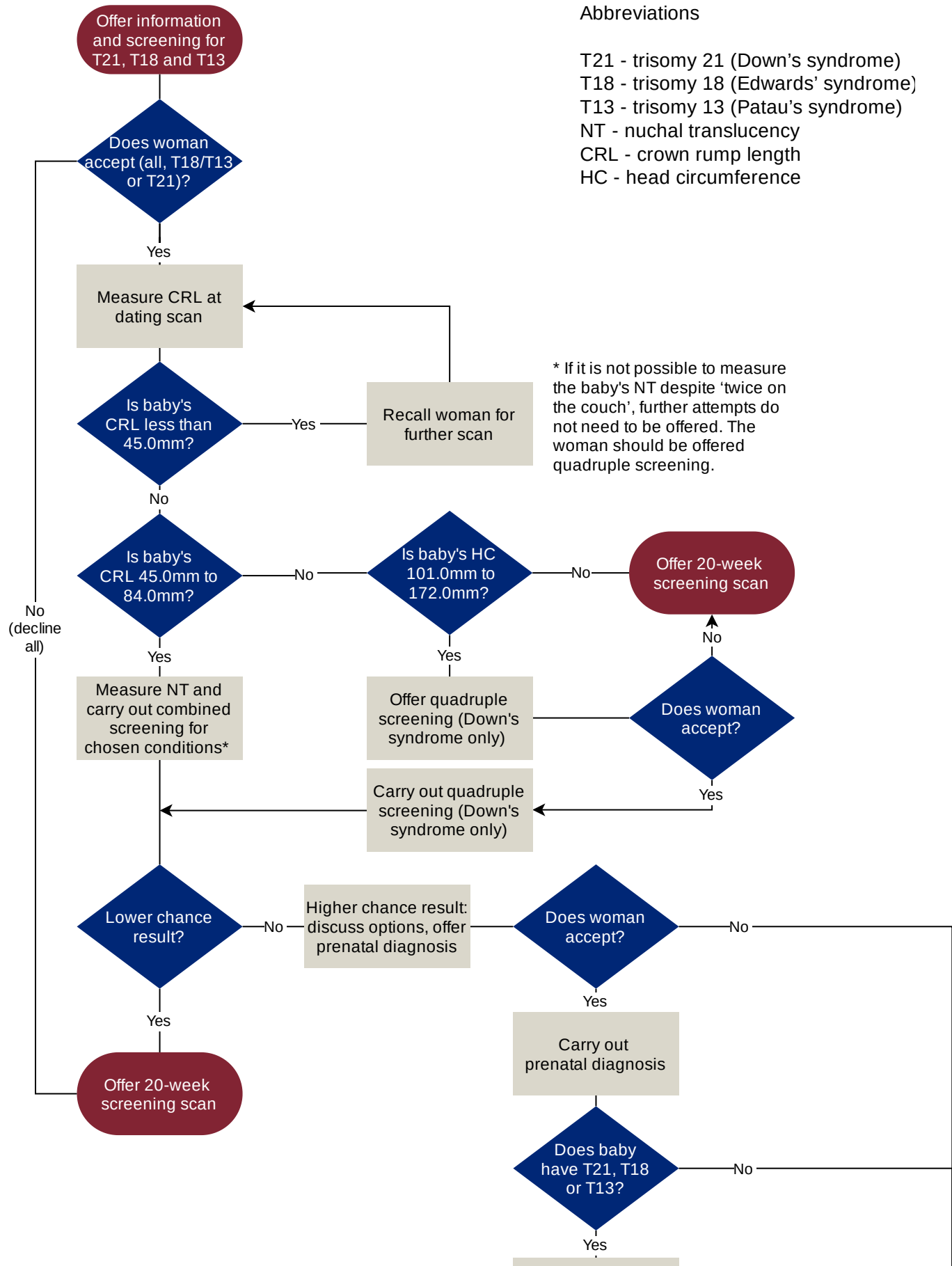
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This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-care-pathways/fetal-anomaly-screening-programme-screening-pathway-for-downs-syndrome-edwards-syndrome-and-pataus-syndrome>

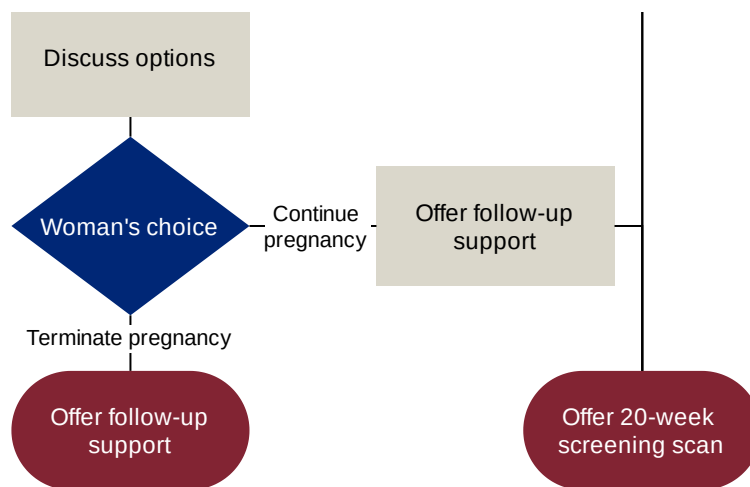
This flowchart (text description and illustration below) describes the screening pathway for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome.



Abbreviations

- T21 - trisomy 21 (Down's syndrome)
- T18 - trisomy 18 (Edwards' syndrome)
- T13 - trisomy 13 (Patau's syndrome)
- NT - nuchal translucency
- CRL - crown rump length
- HC - head circumference

* If it is not possible to measure the baby's NT despite 'twice on the couch', further attempts do not need to be offered. The woman should be offered quadruple screening.



1. Offer information and screening for T21, T18 and T13

Offer the pregnant woman screening for Down's syndrome (trisomy 21), Edwards' syndrome (trisomy 18) and Patau's syndrome (trisomy 13) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fetal-anomaly-screening-providing-services#down's,-edwards'-and-patau's-syndromes-screening>) and information about the screening test(s).

Before screening is carried out, the baby's crown rump length (CRL) is measured at the dating scan (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/dating-scan-ultrasound-10-11-12-13-weeks-pregnant/>).

2. Does the woman accept screening?

Yes: The woman accepts screening for:

- Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome
- Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome
- Down's syndrome only

Go to question 3.

No: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>). End of pathway.

3. Is the baby's CRL less than 45.0mm?

Yes: Recall the woman for a repeat scan when CRL measures 45.0mm or more. Then go to question 4.

No: Go to question 4.

4. Is the baby's CRL between 45.0mm and 84.0mm?

Yes: Carry out combined screening test for chosen conditions. Go to question 7.

No: Go to question 5.

Please note: if it is not possible to measure the baby's nuchal translucency (NT) despite 2 attempts ('twice on the couch'), further attempts do not need to be offered. The woman should be offered quadruple screening.

5. Is the baby's head circumference (HC) between 101.0mm and 172.0mm

Yes: Offer ~~T21~~ quadruple screening (Down's syndrome only). Go to question 6.

No: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>). End of pathway.

6. Does the woman accept quadruple screening?

Yes: Carry out quadruple test. Go to question 7.

No: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>). End of pathway.

7. Is the result lower chance?

Yes: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>). End of pathway.

No: Offer prenatal diagnosis (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cvs-and-amniocentesis-diagnostic-tests-description-in-brief>). Go to question 8.

8. Does the woman accept diagnostic test?

Yes: Carry out prenatal diagnosis. Go to question 9.

No: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>). End of pathway.

9. Does the baby have Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome?

Yes: Discuss options with woman. Go to question 10.

No: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>). End of pathway.

10. What is the woman's choice?

Continue pregnancy: Offer 20-week screening scan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-20-week-scan>) and follow-up support. End of pathway.

Terminate pregnancy: Offer follow-up support.

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