

# **Prenatal Panel Lab Test**

## **What are the tests included in the Prenatal Panel?**

The standard of care in the US is to obtain a blood sample, usually in the first trimester, which includes the following tests:

- Complete Blood Count
- Blood type and factor (RH positive or Negative)
- Antibody Screen
- Rubella immunity
- Syphilis
- Hepatitis B

## **What are the benefits?**

The complete blood count gives you and your care provider information about anemia, infection and clotting factors.

Your blood type and factor can have an impact on this pregnancy and future pregnancies if you have a different blood type than your baby. Even if you know your blood type and factor, the antibody test can reveal sensitization to other blood factors.

If you are immune to rubella you will not need to be concerned about exposure in pregnancy. Women who have been immunized are not always immune.

## **What are the alternatives?**

If you choose to decline the prenatal panel testing, we do recommend that your blood type and Rh factor be determined. The reason for this is if you have an Rh negative blood type, there are other informed decisions you will be asked to make in regards to your care in pregnancy and after the birth. Your blood type and factor can be confirmed by reviewing old blood work, a blood donor card, a blood draw, or via a sample obtained by a finger prick and tested on an eldon card. Please note that the eldon card is not categorized as an official lab test, but would be accepted by your midwife as verification of your blood type and factor, if that is your preferred way of testing.

As an alternative to a portion of the Complete Blood Count (CBC), we may monitor your hemoglobin in the office with a finger prick, which would check for (low iron) anemia.

## **How can I obtain prenatal tests?**

Tests can be ordered through your midwife or a physician of your choice.