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Prenatal Screening

A wide range of tests are now available to help plan and monitor your care/needs during pregnancy. Listed below are explanations of the usual screening tests performed on all new OB patients. There is no risk to you or your baby since they only require a blood sample be taken from your arm, urine collection, or pelvic (inside the vagina) examination.

VDRL:	Screening test for syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease which can harm the mother and the baby.
Rubella Titer:	German measles is a major cause of birth defects. This test tells if you are protected against German measles.
CBC:	Blood level to look for anemia or infection.
Blood Type/ RH	Some blood types can affect the baby and require special testing.
Urine Culture: Urinalysis:	Bacteria in the urine can cause complications during the pregnancy.
Pap Smear:	Tests for pre-cancerous changes of the cervix (Mouth of the womb).
Chlamydia Culture: Gonorrhea Culture:	Test for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, sexually transmitted diseases.
MSAFP:	Maternal Serum Alpha Feto-Protein--High or low levels of this substance may indicate an increased risk for the baby to have certain abnormalities such as spina bifida (A hole in the spine) or Down Syndrome (Mongoloid). Further testing may be recommended.
HIV Screen:	This is a test to see if you are infected with the AIDS Virus. Rarely this test may be negative in infected Individuals.