

## Maternity

# Low pregnancy associated plasma protein A (PAPP-A)

Your recent screening test for Down's syndrome, Edwards, and Patau's Syndrome showed that your PAPP-A level is low.

### What is PAPP-A?

PAPP-A is a hormone made by the placenta in pregnancy. It is one of the two hormones measured in the screening test for Down's, Edwards and Patau's Syndrome.

### What does a low PAPP-A mean?

Research shows that if the PAPP-A level is low (less than 0.415MoM). It can sometimes be linked to:

- A lower birth weight baby
- A higher chance of the being born early
- Miscarriage in the second half of pregnancy
- A higher chance of developing pre-eclampsia

### What happens next?

To help lower the chances of these problems, we have sent a letter about your results to your GP. We have asked them to give you a prescription for Aspirin. You should take this as your GP or midwife tells you, until your baby is born.

You will be offered extra ultrasound scans to monitor your baby's growth, check the amount of fluid around your baby, and check the blood flow through the placenta. You will see a doctor (Obstetrician) after each scan.

If no problems are found, and there are no other pregnancy or medical complications, you can choose any birth option, including giving birth in Lucina, our Midwifery Led Unit.



## Patient Information

### What can I do to help?

Smoking can make the placenta work less well, and can affect your baby's growth. If you smoke, your midwife can refer you to our Smoking Cessation service to help you quit smoking during pregnancy.

### Who can I talk to for help?

Hearing that your PAPP-A is low can make you feel worried. Please know that in most pregnancies with low PAPP-A, no problems develop.

If you have questions, you can:

- Talk to your Community Midwife.
- Call the Antenatal Screening team at UHCW on 024 7696 7412 to speak to our screening midwives.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please ask staff and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### Document History

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