Women and their families should understand the purpose of all tests before they are taken.

**Pre-conception**
- Commence folic acid

**Antenatal**
- Blood for haemoglobin, group, rhesus and antibodies as early as possible, or as soon as a woman arrives for care, including labour
- Blood for sickle cell and thalassaemia
- Blood for T21, T18 and T13 (combined test)
- Blood for T21 (quadruple test)
- Detailed ultrasound scan for structural abnormalities, including T18 and T13
- Follow-up DE screen for women with type 1 or 2 diabetes found to have diabetic retinopathy

**Newborn**
- Newborn physical examination by 72 hours
- Newborn hearing screen
- Newborn blood spot screens (ideally on day 5) for: sickle cell disease (SCD), cystic fibrosis (CF), congenital hypothyroidism (CHT) and inherited metabolic diseases (PKU, MCADD, MSUD, IVA, GA1 and HCU)
  - NB: babies who missed the screen can be tested up to one year (except CF offered up to 8 weeks)

Key to screening programmes
- T21, T18, T13 and fetal anomaly ultrasound
- Sickle cell and thalassaemia
- Newborn and infant physical examination
- Newborn blood spot
- Infectious diseases in pregnancy
- Newborn hearing
- Diabetic eye

Antenatal and Newborn Screening Timeline - optimum times for testing

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