



CREDIT VALLEY
THE CREDIT VALLEY HOSPITAL

Memo

SUBJECT: **ADVANCED MATERNAL AGE REFERRALS**
TO: REFERRING HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

DATE: February 4, 2010
FROM: CLINICAL GENETICS

As of March 1, 2010, Clinical Genetics at The Credit Valley Hospital will no longer be accepting prenatal referrals for advanced maternal age counseling without any genetic risk factors.

In order to assist you in providing the information to these women, we have attached a provincial reference guide that includes age related risk tables, timing of prenatal tests and risks associated with invasive diagnostic procedures. We also have a prenatal screening and testing video for patient viewing which will be available shortly on our website (details to follow at a later time).

If you have a patient who will be at least 40 years old at the time of delivery and is interested in proceeding with either chorionic villus sampling (CVS) or amniocentesis, you may refer your patient directly for these procedures. Amniocentesis will continue to be offered at The Credit Valley Hospital (referral form attached). CVS is offered at Mount Sinai Hospital (referral form link--www.mountsinai.on.ca/care/pdmg/referrals).

If your patient has an abnormal result stemming from amniocentesis, the Genetics clinic will serve as a liaison between the Genetics laboratory and your office. A Genetics staff member will inform you of the abnormal result and offer an appointment for your patient in the Genetics clinic. All normal results will be sent directly to your office (see flow chart for details).

For your information, the SOGC (Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Canada) Clinical Practice Guideline published in February 2007 recommends that "amniocentesis/chorionic villi sampling (CVS) should not be provided without multiple marker screening results except for women over the age of 40" (http://www.sogc.org/media/advisories-20070205_e.asp).

We will still be accepting referrals for pregnant women of any age with: **1)** a family history of a genetic condition, **2)** a positive prenatal screen result or **3)** a fetal ultrasound anomaly (including soft markers). If CVS or amniocentesis is indicated in these cases, we will continue to schedule the procedure and follow up with results, as usual.

We appreciate that during the course of this transition you may have questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact us at 905-813-4104 and ask to speak with Ms. Sandi Lazzaro or Ms. Elyce Carson.

Dr. Deborah Terespolsky
Director of Clinical Genetics

Together We Create Better  Health Care

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