

Thalassaemia Screening in the Pregnancy Booking Clinic

1. Provide the information leaflet on screening for thalassaemia and abnormal haemoglobins
"Why should I be Tested for Thalassaemia?"

2. Ask whether there is a family history of Thalassaemia or other abnormal haemoglobin eg sickle cell trait or disease

YES

3. Ask if there is a family history of anaemia

YES

Refer to Genetic counsellor in the booking clinic

4. Ask and record the ethnic origin of the patient and patient's partner
(this includes patients/partners born in Australia, but whose ancestors come from the regions listed below)

- Is EITHER partner (or their ancestors) from:
 - The Mediterranean
 - The Middle East
 - Africa (including Carribean or Africa-Americans)
 - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Bangladesh
 - Any Asian country
 - Indonesia, The Phillipines or other Pacific islands
 - South America
 - New Zealand Maoris

YES

Request a thalassaemia/haemoglobinopathy screen for the pregnant woman:

Request:

- FBE
- Tests for thalassaemia and Haemoglobinopathy
- Ferritin
- Also record the ethnic origin on the request slip

Tubes:

- 1 x 2.7ml EDTA + 1x gel tube

NOTE:

Tests performed from Satellite Clinics/ Shared Care should request a copy of results to the Thalassaemia Clinic RWH and PBC

- If you are not sure whether to request thalassaemia screening, ask the genetic counsellor at the booking clinic
- Patients should be advised that their blood is screened for thalassaemia and could be tested for thalassaemia, if their FBE screen is abnormal, even if they do not fall in any of the above categories.
- The Laboratory Haematologist reviews all results. Those results that are indicative or suggestive of thalassaemia or an abnormal haemoglobin are referred to the Thalassaemia Clinic.