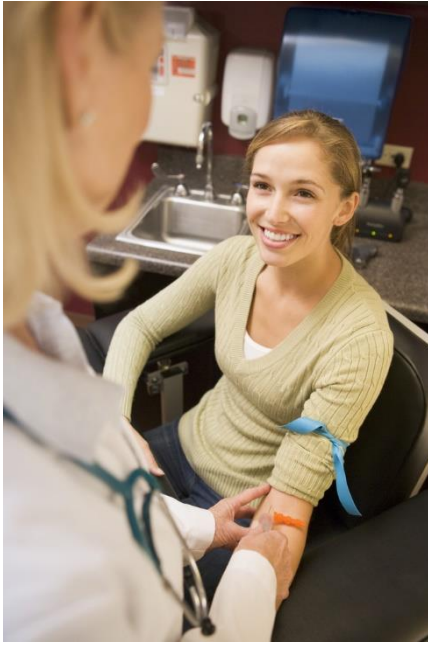


Fertility Blood Tests



Pre-pregnancy tests

Any woman planning to become pregnant should have routine blood tests. These include tests for immunity to rubella and varicella, and to check for viral infections such as Hepatitis B. As well, tests for the woman's blood group, vitamin D, and iron stores are commonly done.



Hormone tests

Tests of hormones are commonly undertaken. These can assist in detecting whether there are problems with the function of the pituitary gland, for example.

Commonly tests are taken for follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinising hormone (LH), prolactin, testosterone and male hormones, and progesterone.

Also, additional tests of hormonal function such as thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) or adrenal hormones.

A measure of ovarian reserve is commonly performed – this is Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH).

Other blood tests

In some cases, additional testing will be taken. Examples include:

Testing for **autoimmune diseases**, such as Lupus.

These are a group of diseases where the woman's immune system begins to treat its own tissues as if they are foreign invaders. As well as causing rashes, arthritis and other problems, lupus-like illnesses can be associated with early pregnancy loss (miscarriage) and fertility delays.

Testing for **blood clotting disorders**.

Inherited conditions where the blood is more likely to clot – known as 'thrombophilias' – can cause problems with early pregnancy loss, and also problems during pregnancy.