When a scan shows a nuchal translucency (NT) measurement of 3.5 millimetres or more

What is nuchal translucency (NT)?

Every unborn baby has some fluid under the skin at the back of their neck. This fluid is called nuchal translucency (NT). If the width of the nuchal translucency is 3.5mm or more it may be a sign of a problem, for instance, an increased risk of miscarriage, a heart or chromosome abnormality (such as Down’s, Edward’s and Patau’s syndromes).

What happens next?

The risk of your pregnancy being affected with Down’s, Edward’s and Patau’s syndromes should still be calculated using the scan information, as well as the biochemical markers in your blood sample (the Combined Test).

We will contact you by telephone within 3-5 working days of the scan (when the Combined Test results will be available) to arrange an appointment in Prenatal Diagnosis. You may be offered a diagnostic test to find out more specific details about your baby’s chromosomes, and will be offered further scans.

Although this can be a worrying time, it is important to remember that many babies who have an NT measurement of 3.5mm or more are healthy. An increased NT does not mean there is definitely a problem.
Information for parents

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions while you are waiting for your appointment, please visit the following websites or contact one of the numbers below.

**NSC – UK National Screening Committee**
Useful information and leaflets about national screening programmes, available in many different languages.

[www.screening.nhs.uk/annbpublications](http://www.screening.nhs.uk/annbpublications)
Tel: 0203 682 0890

**NHS Choices**


**Fetal Medicine Midwives 01865 221 716**
**Screening Coordinator  01865 221 087**
(Answerphone message service available, if calling outside office hours)

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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May 2016
Review: May 2019
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[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)