Dr. John D. Stephens, M.D., Inc.
now offers the availability of: ULTRASCREEN
First Trimester Prenatal Screening and Ultrasound Exam

WHAT IS ULTRASCREEN?

UltraScreen is a combination of a maternal blood test and an ultrasound measurement, which identifies fetuses (unborn babies) at increased risk of having certain birth defects, like Down syndrome and Trisomy 18. These disorders result from an extra chromosome in each cell. The extra chromosome causes birth defects and mental retardation.

The blood test measures two pregnancy proteins in the mother's blood, freeBeta-hCG and PAPP-A. The ultrasound measures fluid on the baby's neck, called the nuchal translucency (NT). This test is safe for you and your baby.

UltraScreen is the most accurate, earliest and safest prenatal screening test available. The blood test alone (at 9-14 weeks) identifies 68% of Down Syndrome and 90% of trisomy 18 fetuses (unborn babies). The blood test with the NT (at 11-14 weeks) identifies 91% of Down syndrome, 97% of trisomy 18, 49% of heart defects, and some other birth defects.

WHO SHOULD BE OFFERED SCREENING?

Because about 80% Down syndrome and trisomy 18 babies are born to women less than 35 at delivery, UltraScreen is offered to all women who will be less than 35 and have no family history of chromosomal abnormalities.

ULTRASCREEN BENEFIT:

- **Gives you and your healthcare the earliest and most accurate information to assist you in managing your pregnancy.**
- **Detects more defects than any other screening with the fewer false positive results.**
- **Helps identify over 90% of Down syndrome, heart defects or other birth defects.**
- **Reduces mother's anxiety and unnecessary testing.**

WILL THE SCREENING TELL ME FOR CERTAIN IF MY BABY HAS DOWN SYNDROM OR TRISOMY 18?

No. This screening test cannot diagnose or rule out any specific condition. It is only used to ESTIMATE your risk.

WHAT IF MY SCREENING TEST DOES NOT SHOW AN INCREASED RISK?

This is good news.

WHAT IF MY SCREENING TEST SHOWS AN INCREASED RISK?

It does not mean a chromosomal abnormality has been diagnosed; only that you may have an increased risk of having a fetus with Down syndrome, and trisomy 18, or some other chromosomal abnormalities. You will be offered genetic counseling, and an amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS) test that diagnose problems in pregnancy.

IF I PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PREGNANCY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, SHOULD I HAVE SCREENING?

You will receive important information about your baby, including identifying possible risks for birth defects and mental retardation as well as some treatable problems like heart defects or possible pregnancy complications. If a birth defect is identified, your healthcare provider can discuss options and provide support.

WHAT OTHER TEST SHOULD I HAVE?

Your healthcare provider may discuss another ultrasound exam in the second trimester.

SHOULD I HAVE AN ADDITIONAL SECOND TRIMESTER SCREENING FOR DOWN SYNDROME AND TRISOMY 18?

NO. A second chromosomal screening is not recommended. Why? Because the first trimester screening is more accurate and less likely to give a false risk result. Any second screening is unlikely to improve detection because most of the affected fetuses have already been found by first trimester screening.