



FACT SHEET - Prospective Parents: It's Your Choice

Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare practitioners usually need your consent before they examine or treat you. It's important you have sufficient information to understand the proposed treatment or procedure and to make the appropriate decision about whether to proceed or not. Prenatal screening and diagnostic tests each have their own pros and cons that should be understood before you give consent. Remember, prenatal screening is your choice.

Informed consent is important:

- Do you want to go ahead with screening?
- Do you know your screening options?

Informed decision-making reflects the principle that a person has the right to decide what is appropriate for them, taking into account their personal circumstances, beliefs and priorities. This includes the right to accept certain health care and to change that decision at any time.

(Queensland Health, 2017).

Prenatal screening is NOT part of routine pregnancy care. You should be presented with all the information to make sure you understand your options. The information should be presented in a language that you clearly understand, and should not include medical terminology that is difficult to understand.



Remember – you can change your mind at any time, or withdraw your consent at any time.

Ask questions. Ask for more information. Ask for support if you need it. The decision you make needs to be the best decision **FOR YOU.**

For more information, see the Maternity Consumer Network fact sheet on Prenatal Screening:

<https://prenatalscreening.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/MCN-patient-information-brochure.pdf>

References

Down Syndrome Queensland. (2022). Practice Resource – Prenatal Screening for Chromosomal Conditions including Down syndrome. <https://prenatalscreening.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Prenatal-Screening-Practice-Resource.pdf>

Queensland Health. (2017). Guide to Informed Decision Making in Health Care. https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/143074/ic-guide.pdf