

NZCOM CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Laboratory Testing/Screening

This Consensus Statement was ratified at National Committee Meeting 21 November 1996

The New Zealand College of Midwives (Inc) believes that a registered midwife has the educational background and knowledge base to appropriately order and correctly interpret laboratory tests in relation to pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period for women and their newborn.

There is a schedule of subsidised laboratory/screening tests that midwives may request. It is expected that women with abnormal test results will be treated or referred as appropriate. Referral patterns will be in line with the midwives scope of practice and guided by the Referral Guidelines attached to the July 2002 Maternity Notice.

Ordering of laboratory tests necessary for the ongoing management of underlying medical conditions are the responsibility of the health professional who is involved in managing this aspect of the woman's care.

References:

Title: NZCOM Consensus Statements:

- Guidelines for Prescribing
- Gestational Diabetes
- Cervical Screening

Source: NZCOM, PO Box 21106, Christchurch

Title: Referral Guidelines, Appendix 1, Maternity Services Notice, Section 88 of the Public Health and Disability Act 2000, July, 2002

Source: Ministry of Health - www.moh.govt.nz

Title: Maternity Services Notice, Section 88 of the Public Health and Disability Act 2000, July, 2002

Title: Understanding Diagnostic Tests in the Childbearing Years: An Holistic Guide to Evaluating the Health of Mother and Baby

Author: Ann Frye. 1997

Source: Labrys Press, Oregon

Title: NZCOM Midwives Handbook for Practice, 2002

Source: NZCOM, PO Box 21106, Christchurch

The purpose of New Zealand College of Midwives Consensus Statements is to provide women, midwives and the maternity services with the profession's position on any given situation. The guidelines are designed to educate and support best practice. All position statements are regularly reviewed and updated in line with evidence-based practice.