Effective December 1, 2016, the University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Laboratory will perform testing for isolated maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein (MSAFP).

Recent guidelines on screening for fetal aneuploidy issued by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists recommend that repeat screening for neural tube defects should be done with MSAFP alone. Repeat screening tests with multiple analytes (e.g., quad screening) following a first-trimester screen is not recommended.

Specimen: One 5 mL gold or red top with gel

Minimum volume: 1 mL serum

Storage/Transport:
- Internal: Deliver to lab immediately at ambient temperature.
- External: Allow to clot for 30 minutes before centrifugation. Centrifuge and transport to lab at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

Remarks:
The following information is required and must accompany the sample for test interpretation:
- Maternal weight in pounds
- Date of last menstrual period (LMP), or Date of ultrasound and gestational age at ultrasound
- Estimated date of delivery
- Test information subject to change
- Current pregnancy: Singleton, Twins, Multiple Fetuses
- Mother's race
- Mother's diabetic status; Insulin dependent?
- Family history of Down syndrome or neural tube defect
- If in vitro fertilization (IVF) pregnancy, donor's date of birth
- Initial screening or repeat testing

Please call Kathryn M. Lloyd, MD at (720) 848-6896 if you have any questions or visit our website at https://www.uchealth.org/professionals/Pages/Clinical-Laboratory.aspx for additional information.

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