

GENERAL INFORMATION ON GENETICS DEPARTMENT

SPECIMEN TYPE	CONTAINER TYPE	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
Amniotic fluid	2 x 15ml plain, sterile plastic tubes (Available from the Genetics Laboratory)	Specimens are usually taken at or after 16 weeks gestation. Should be sterile and free of blood. Keep cool, do not freeze.

CAUTION: Take blood for maternal Alpha-Fetoprotein assay BEFORE amniocentesis.

Please note: If an amniotic fluid sample for foetal chromosome analysis is taken on a Friday (or the day before a public holiday), PLEASE make prior transport arrangements with the Genetics Laboratory.

Reports

Foetal Chromosome Analysis on amniotic fluid - This procedure usually takes 3 weeks to complete. Results will be telephoned to the patient's gynaecologist and a full report will be posted thereafter.

Procedure for the despatch of samples to the Genetics Laboratory

1. Samples must be placed in specimen envelopes (1 patient per envelope). These are available from SANBS Genetics Lab in Pinetown on request.
2. When samples are ready for despatch, phone the Genetics Laboratory on 031 719 6607 or on 082 894 0752 after hours.
3. A driver from SANBS will be despatched to collect samples. (In the Durban area only).
4. Samples collected outside the Durban area must be submitted to the local branch of SANBS for despatch to Pinetown.