BC WOMEN'S HOSPITAL+ HEALTH CENTRE
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

MEMO

To: BCW sonographers, reporting MDs and Obstetrical Care providers

From: Chantal Mayer, Medical lead BCW Ultrasound

Date: January 25, 2021

Re: **NT assessment in pregnancies with NIPT or PGT-A**

Due to limited capacity, BCW offers only a limited number of appointments for NT (nuchal translucency) assessment and is currently unable to offer routine 11-14 week examinations unless referred on the basis of a suspected anomaly.

Referrals for NT assessment are triaged and booked according to the Perinatal Services BC (PSBC) criteria for eligibility for IPS. NT measurement for the purpose of calculation of aneuploidy risk is not currently indicated where NIPT (Non Invasive Prenatal Testing) or PGT- A (Pre-implantation Genetic Testing for Aneuploidy) was performed. This is because, although not diagnostic, the detection rates and accuracy of these tests far exceed that of the NT/SIPS.

Patients with either NIPT or PGT-A are occasionally inadvertently booked for NT assessment at BCW. This typically happens when:

1. The requisition did not specify that PGT-A was performed or that NIPT was planned or performed in a patient who is otherwise a candidate for NT.
2. A booking error occurred.

When a patient who is considered ineligible for NT assessment is examined at 11-14 weeks GA at in the BCW Main ultrasound Department, the following procedure is followed:

1. An ultrasound examination is performed as per PSBC imaging standards which includes a limited fetal anatomical survey.
2. The nuchal region is assessed as part of the anatomical survey; however, the NT measurement is not reported for the purpose of Trisomy 21 risk calculation.
3. If a fetal anomaly is identified*, including an NT measurement greater than 3.5 mm* or a cystic hygroma, the fetal anomaly is reported along with recommendation for referral to Medical Genetics.

References:

1. BC prenatal Genetic Program: reference cards of key screening table and flow diagrams (April 2019) table 3
2. SOGC Committee Opinion No. 406: Prenatal testing after IVF with preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy. Nov 2020