

Maternal Fetal Medicine

A healthy baby is your ultimate goal...and ours

If you are over 35 and pregnant, have an existing health problem, or if a problem has been detected in your unborn baby, we can help. The experts at Geisinger's Maternal Fetal Medicine department offer the region's most advanced testing and care of both mother and fetus. We provide the following services:

Testing and monitoring of the mother to help educate and manage:

- heart problems — whether you've been diagnosed with heart problems, are currently on medication, or have noticed rapid heartbeat or other disturbing signs
- diabetes — whether you had diabetes before, or develop it during pregnancy (gestational diabetes)
- clotting disorder — we offer education and help in managing medications
- anemia (low iron count in the blood) We monitor your blood levels and offer nutritional guidance

Consulting and testing of the fetus:

- Genetic counseling — Our genetic counselor will review family history, arrange any necessary testing and coordinate care for you as well as your unborn baby
- Targeted ultrasound — an external monitor focuses on specific areas of the developing fetus to rule out abnormalities
- CVS (Chorionic villus sampling) — a test done early in pregnancy that examines internal tissue from the mother to identify certain problems in the fetus
- Quadruple screening — a blood test done at four months of pregnancy that tests levels of chemicals and hormones in the mother
- Amniocentesis — a test done mid-pregnancy to analyze the liquid (amniotic fluid) surrounding the fetus in order to detect problems
- Biophysical profile (BPP) — a non-stress test that measure the heart rate of the fetus by an external monitor. It may also include a fetal ultrasound.

Procedures performed by Geisinger on the fetus:

- Amnio infusion — a procedure that increases the fluid around the fetus when testing determines that there is not enough
- Amnio reduction — a procedure that eliminates excess fluid around the fetus when testing determines that there is too much
- Fetal blood transfusion — If anemia is discovered in the developing fetus, Geisinger specialists can perform a transfusion.