

Population Screening Act: NIPT in pregnant adolescents aged 16 and 17 years

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Executive summary

Health Council of the Netherlands



On behalf of the national NIPT consortium, Amsterdam UMC, location VU University Medical Center, has applied for a permit for the use of the non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT) in pregnant adolescents aged 16 and 17 years and in multiple pregnancies for the detection of trisomies 21 (Down), 13 (Patau) and 18 (Edwards) as part of two ongoing studies. This study requires a permit under the Population Screening Act (WBO). The Committee on Population Screening of the Dutch Health Council has examined the permit application against requirements of the WBO. This advisory report relates to the population of pregnant adolescents aged 16 and 17 years. The advisory report regarding women with a multiple pregnancy will be published later this year.

The Committee concludes that the study is scientifically valid and that the benefits outweigh the risks. The Committee advises the State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport to grant the permit under the condition that only adolescent's consent is required for study participation. This is in line with the recently updated Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act which states that the legal age for consent to participate in research is 16 years.



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