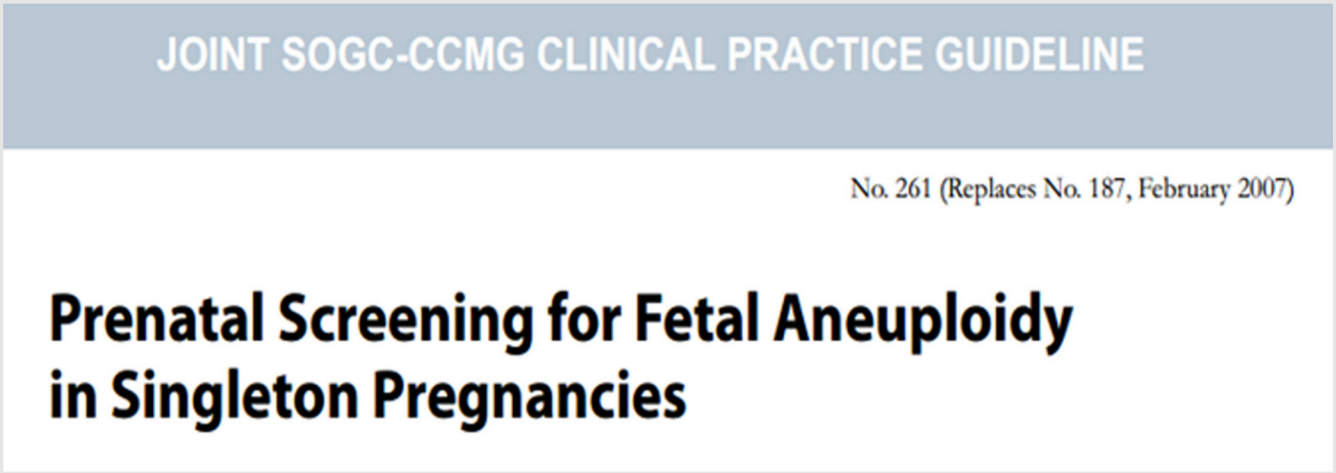
## 4.3.5 Prenatal Genetic Screening

**The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists have released prenatal screening guidelines.**


JOINT SOGC-CCMG CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

No. 261 (Replaces No. 187, February 2007)

**Prenatal Screening for Fetal Aneuploidy in Singleton Pregnancies**

Prenatal genetic screening is intended to provide information about the health of the fetus.

Prenatal screening can bring to light serious disabilities, such as congenital, genetic, and/or chromosomal problems. Generally, prenatal screening is offered as part of routine prenatal care, such as maternal serum screening, or if the mother is at risk of having a child with a serious genetic condition due to mature age or family history. See the following page for more information on prenatal blood screening programs in Canada.

### Prenatal Screening Guidelines

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists recommend that screening for a condition should be undertaken only when the condition is considered to be serious enough to require intervention. They recommend that any screening program should:

- Be comprehensive and include information for parents and clinicians that is easily understood so that informed decisions can be made.
- Have timely access, a system to provide results and referral for follow-up testing, and access to treatment.
- Allow women and families to refuse testing at each step.
- Be evaluated.
- Have the ability to incorporate new technology.

Source: Chitayat D, Langlois S, Wilson RD. Prenatal Screening for Fetal Aneuploidy in Singleton Pregnancies. Joint SOGC-CCMG Clinical Practice Guideline No. 261 (Replaces No. 187, February 2007). http://www.sogc.org/guidelines/documents/gui261CPG1107E.pdf.