For 1st trimester testing, sample collection during 10 to 13.9 weeks’ gestation is preferred; accepted sample collection times are 9 to 13.9 weeks for screens including h-hCG and 10 to 13.9 weeks for screens including hCG. For 2nd trimester, sample collection during 16 to 18 weeks’ gestation is preferred; sample collection during 15 to 22.9 weeks is accepted. For cell-free DNA screening, sample collection anytime after 10 weeks’ gestation is preferred. Diagnostic testing is recommended after a no-call cfDNA result unless blood was not drawn at an appropriate gestational age. In this case, a single repeat cfDNA test may be considered. Diagnostic testing may include karyotype with or without FISH or chromosomal microarray; microarray is the preferred test when structural abnormalities are visualized on ultrasound. AFP indicates alpha-fetoprotein; cfDNA, cell-free DNA; NT, nuchal translucency.

This figure was developed by Quest Diagnostics based on references 6, 13 and 38. It is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. A physician’s test selection and interpretation, diagnosis, and patient management decisions should be based on his/her education, clinical expertise, and assessment of the patient.