

## PREGNANCY TESTS

**Pregnancy tests work by detecting a certain hormone in the urine or blood that is only there when a woman is pregnant. Your doctor can test you, or you can use a home pregnancy test (HPT). HPTs are inexpensive, easy to use, and highly accurate if used correctly.**

- HPTs are urine tests. Most HPTs can tell if you are pregnant about one week after a missed period. Blood tests can tell sooner than urine tests. You need to see a doctor to have a blood test.
- You can buy HPTs in most drugstores. Make sure to check the expiration date and follow the instructions carefully. If you have questions, call the toll-free number that is usually in the instructions.
- Most HPTs work in a similar way. Usually, you wet a stick by holding it in your urine as you urinate. Sometimes, you may collect urine in a cup and then dip the stick into it. Then you wait a few minutes. For the best results, wait 10 minutes.
- If a line or plus symbol appears in the stick's window — no matter how light it is — you are pregnant. Digital tests show the words “pregnant” or “not pregnant.”
- If your HPT is negative, you might still be pregnant. Test again in a few days or a week. If you keep getting a negative result but think you are pregnant, talk with your doctor right away.
- If your HPT test shows that you are pregnant, call your doctor right away. Your doctor can use a more sensitive test and a pelvic exam to tell for sure if you're pregnant. Seeing your doctor early on in your pregnancy will help you and your baby stay healthy.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### **Food and Drug Administration, HHS**

Phone number: (888) 463-6332

Web address: <http://www.fda.gov>

#### **American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**

Phone numbers: (202) 638-5577; (202) 863-2518 (for publication requests)

Web address: <http://www.acog.org>

#### **Planned Parenthood Federation of America**

Phone number: (800) 230-7526

Web address: <http://www.plannedparenthood.org>

#### **American Pregnancy Association**

Phone number: (800) 672-2296

Web address: <http://www.americanpregnancy.org>



**womenshealth.gov**

1-800-994-9662 • TDD: 1-888-220-5446