



The Development of Novel Biomarkers for Preterm Labour
Project ID number: 11/NW/0720

A group of research doctors, based at Liverpool Women's Hospital, are trying to develop new methods to predict preterm birth. We run a specialist preterm birth prevention clinic where we see ladies who have had babies before between 16 and 34 weeks of pregnancy, and many of these ladies are kindly helping us develop ways to predict preterm birth. We also need a group of healthy mums to compare to. We are looking for ladies who fit the following criteria:

- Currently under 17 weeks of pregnancy with single baby
- Have had at least one baby before
- All previous babies have been born at 37 or more weeks of pregnancy (less than 3 weeks early)
- No high blood pressure/pre-eclampsia/diabetes in pregnancies before

The study would involve:

- Two visits at about 16 and about 20 weeks of pregnancy
- Each visit lasts for about an hour
- During the visits we would ask for a urine sample, take blood, and do a speculum examination to take vaginal swabs
- During the visit we would also do an internal scan to measure the length of your cervix. If the cervix is short this means that you could be at risk of preterm birth, and so we would not continue with the research but we would offer you treatment for this in our specialist clinic.

In return:

- You would be contributing to important research that aims to reduce the number of babies born too soon
- During each visit we would do an ultrasound scan of your baby, and give you free pictures to take home. This can involve a scan to find out the baby's sex at 16 weeks if you would like, and a 3D scan at 20 weeks.

If you would like to be involved, or for more information, please text your name and hospital number to 07470003801.

Thank you!