

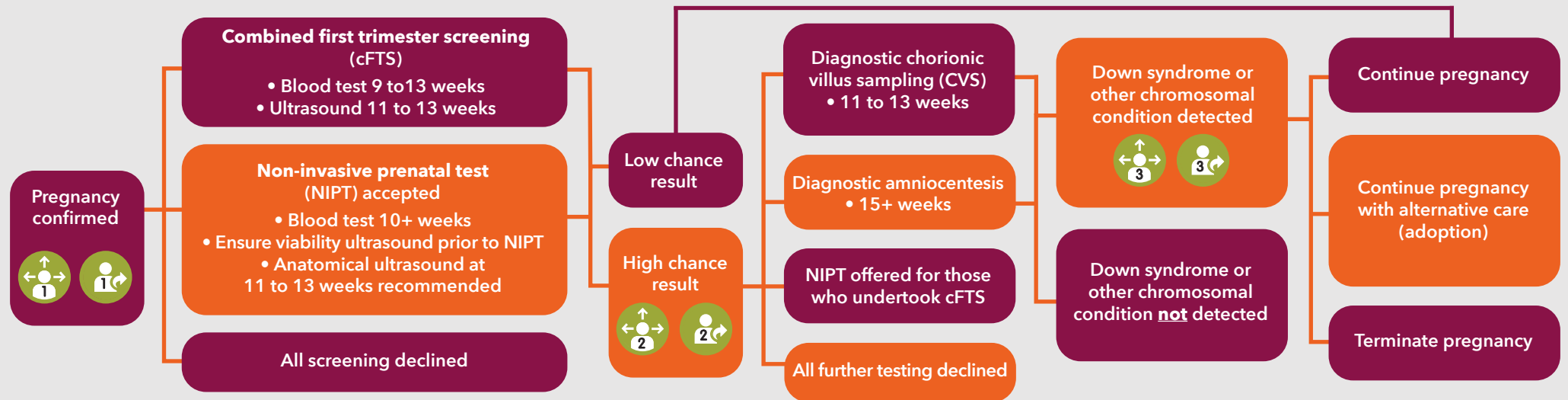
# PRENATAL CHROMOSOMAL SCREENING PATHWAY



DECISION & DISCUSSION POINTS



REFERRAL POINT & RESOURCES



## DECISION & DISCUSSION POINTS

- Prenatal screening is not compulsory. Ensure informed consent. Carrier screening is an option.
- Use neutral language such as 'chance', 'probability' or 'likelihood' rather than 'risk'. Use the term 'condition' in place of 'abnormality'.
- Factual delivery of results. 'Unexpected news' rather than 'bad news'.
- Most common unexpected prenatal screening result is high chance Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome), followed by T18 and T13 and sex chromosome aneuploidy (NIPT only).
- Provide up-to-date, evidence-based information on the most commonly screened for conditions.
- Outline difference between screening and diagnostic tests.



## DECISION & DISCUSSION POINTS

- Explain difference between screening and diagnostic tests. Outline diagnostic test procedures, risks and costs.
- Explain FISH/karyotype/chromosome microarray (decision based on waiting for results and cost).
- Highlight timeframes for testing and receiving results and making further decisions.
- Explain results, include information around sensitivity, specificity and positive predictive value for the woman's age of the test - to explain results. Explain false positives and false negatives can occur.
- Provide up-to-date, evidence-based information on Down syndrome and/or other conditions.



## DECISION & DISCUSSION POINTS

- Outline all options and don't assume termination.
- Provide up-to-date and evidence-based information on Down syndrome or conditions detected.
- Provide all information and referrals to promote informed choice.
- Ensure use of neutral language.
- Provide assurance of the information, support and time needed to make a decision.

# REFERRALS AND RESOURCES



## POINT 1 REFERRALS AND RESOURCES

- Non-directive counselling and support services:
  - **Pregnancy support counselling - COPE**
  - **Pregnancy Counselling Link - Counselling and Education Services (pcl.org.au)**
  - **Children by Choice: Support for all Pregnancy Options**
- Down syndrome association or other condition-specific associations
- YourChoice provides information and decision aid to help people make an informed choice  
**YourChoice (mcri.edu.au)**
- Prenatal screening. Provides information and support to health professionals and prospective parents to make informed choices about screening, diagnostic testing and continuing or terminating a pregnancy
  - **Prenatal Screening Awareness - Down Syndrome Queensland**



## POINT 2 REFERRALS AND RESOURCES

As per point 1, and:

- Genetic counselling
- Maternal fetal medicine
- Mental health support and referrals
- Through the Unexpected. Provides information for people through an unexpected diagnosis, decision making and the time that follows
  - **Through the Unexpected**
- COPE: Centre of Perinatal Excellence. Providing information and a directory of services and support for the emotional challenges of becoming a parent
  - **COPE: Centre of Perinatal Excellence**



## POINT 3 REFERRALS AND RESOURCES

As per point 1 & 2:

- Alternative care (adoption) - Adoption Services Department of Justice, Community and Safety
  - **Consider adoption for my child | vic.gov.au (www.vic.gov.au)**
- 1800 My Options. Information on pregnancy options including termination in Victoria, as well as pregnancy options counselling service **1800 696 784**
  - **1800 My Options: contraception, pregnancy options and sexual health**