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Amniocentesis is a test you may be offered during pregnancy to check if your baby has a genetic or chromosomal condition, such as Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome or Patau's syndrome. It involves removing and testing a small sample of cells from amniotic fluid, the fluid that surrounds the unborn baby in the womb (uterus). When amniocentesis is offered. Amniocentesis is not offered to all pregnant women. It's only offered if there's a higher chance your baby could have a genetic condition. This could be because