Effect of smoking on biochemical markers used in screening for Down’s syndrome, Edwards’ syndrome and Patau’s syndrome

There are differences in serum concentrations of some biochemical markers in smokers that affect the calculated chance. It is important to inform the laboratory so that an adjustment to the chance calculation can be made.

Antenatal Screening Wales recommends a minimum data field of:
• smoker (yes or no)

Women should be classified as non-smokers (smoker - no) if they:
• do not smoke
• stopped smoking ≥ 2 weeks before the screening test
• use Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and stopped smoking ≥ 2 weeks before the screening test
• use vaping products and stopped smoking ≥ 2 weeks before the screening test

NRT includes nicotine patches, gum and inhalers. Vaping products include e-cigarettes and refill containers known as e-liquids.