



PATIENT INFORMATION

Inheritest[®] Carrier Screen

Prepare today for your family's tomorrow



labcorp



The Inheritest[®] Carrier Screen can help determine if you are at increased risk for having a child with an inherited disorder. Early insight can help you better prepare for your family's future.

What is carrier screening?

Carrier screening is a genetic test that can help you learn if you (and if indicated, your partner) are a carrier of variants in certain genes associated with a genetic disorder. Examples of genetic disorders include cystic fibrosis (CF) and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

Anyone can carry a genetic disorder

You could be a carrier of a genetic disorder regardless of your ethnicity and even when there is no family history of the disorder. More than 80% of infants with CF are born to families with no prior family history.¹

It is estimated that every person carries three to five genetic mutations in their DNA.² Being a carrier does not typically cause any related symptoms for that person, but it can mean that their children are at risk of inheriting the disorder.

Who should consider carrier screening?

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), screening for CF and SMA should be offered to all women who are considering pregnancy or are currently pregnant.³ Carrier screening is optional. Families can decide whether or not to test, and for how many disorders, based on their needs and preferences.

When is the best time to have carrier screening?

Carrier screening can be done at any time but is most useful if it is done before pregnancy, or as early as possible during pregnancy. Early knowledge can empower your family planning choices and ensure you have early access to available treatments.

Choice in carrier screening

Inheritest is a helpful step in family planning, with panels that screen for as few as two disorders or as many as 500 or more. Your doctor may help you decide which panel is right for you. Visit our website and watch our patient education videos to learn more.

A simple process with speedy results

1. A blood or saliva sample is collected from you (and/or your partner)

2. The sample is sent to our laboratory for analysis
3. In approximately two to three weeks, your results are returned to your doctor

What if the test shows you are a carrier of a genetic disorder?

If your test shows you are a carrier of an autosomal recessive disorder, the next step is for your partner to have carrier screening performed to assess your true risk for passing on a genetic disorder. Your doctor and our genetic counselors can help you better understand your test results and help you prepare for the future.

If your test result is negative, could you still be a carrier?

A negative result reduces, but does not completely eliminate, the risk of being a carrier of the genetic disorders included in a carrier screening panel. Screening cannot test for all mutations or all disorders.

The chance you'll have an affected child varies

- **Autosomal recessive inheritance**
Many genetic disorders are inherited through “autosomal recessive inheritance.” With autosomal recessive inheritance, both parents typically carry a variant in the same gene in order to have an increased chance (25%) of having a child affected with a disorder, such as cystic fibrosis.
- **X-linked inheritance**
With X-linked disorders such as fragile X syndrome, the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability,⁴ only the biologic mother needs to be a carrier in order to be at risk for having a child with the disorder.

When the biologic mother is a carrier of an X-linked condition, there is a 50% chance of passing the mutation on to a child. While these disorders are seen most commonly in boys, in some cases girls can also show symptoms.

"Prior testing would have helped us prepare emotionally for a baby with cystic fibrosis, and we could have avoided that first week of Hayden being really sick while we searched for a diagnosis"

– Elizabeth B., Hayden's mom

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Genetic counseling

Patients with a positive result may be offered counseling, and Labcorp offers the largest national commercial network of genetic counselors to help inform and support patients.

Every Mom Pledge

We believe every patient should have access to the best possible care. That's why we work directly with you to make sure our testing services are accessible and out-of-pocket costs are transparent.

Call Us

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