



## Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry Carrier Screening

### **Why is carrier screening recommended for individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry?**

Individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry are at increased risk for genetic disorders such as Tay Sachs, Familial Dysautonomia, Cystic Fibrosis, among others. Complications due to these disorders include but are not limited to deafness, seizures, respiratory distress, and delayed mental and social development. These disorders do not have a cure, though treatment options are available.

### **What is Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry carrier screening?**

Ashkenazi Jewish carrier screening is series of blood tests that can be performed before or during pregnancy to determine whether or not a mother carries genes to the conditions described above. People that test positive for these genes are called "carriers". If two carriers have a baby there is a small chance that the baby will have characteristics of the condition.

### **Is testing covered by my insurance?**

Although this simple test is highly recommended, insurance coverage varies greatly. For this reason, it is recommended that patients check with their insurance company to see if this test is covered. To check coverage, call the customer service number on the back of your card and give the representative the following information:

#### Diagnosis Code:

- If you are not pregnant: Z31.430 (Ashkenazi Jewish Carrier Screening)
- If you are pregnant: O99.89 (Other specified diseases or conditions complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium) AND Z31.430 (Ashkenazi Jewish Carrier Screening)

Test Code: 81479

### **What if my test is negative?**

A negative test indicates that your risk of being an Ashkenazi Jewish carrier is extremely small. No additional testing is recommended for you or the baby's father.

### **What if my test is positive?**

A positive result indicates that you are a carrier of the abnormal gene. If your test is positive, your doctor will recommend that the baby's father undergo the same test.

### **What if I've been tested in the past?**

If you have had a Ashkenazi Jewish carrier screen in the past, please tell us! Your result will not change, so repeating the test is not necessary. We will simply add your result into your medical record.