



Carrier Screening

- ***What is carrier screening?*** This is a test that is done by a blood draw and determines if you carry a gene for certain genetic disorders. When it is done before or during pregnancy, it allows you to find out your chances of having a child with a specific genetic disorder.
- ***Would my family history tell me if I have a genetic issue?*** Not always since these are recessive genes. That means that for someone to have symptoms they need to inherit one part from their mother and one part from their father. Many people are carriers of these genetic issues and do not have symptoms.
- ***How often do I need to have carrier screening done?*** Only once in your lifetime. Your carrier status for a specific genetic issue will not change in your lifetime.
- ***How can I be tested?*** We recommend using a “panel” to test. The Horizon 14 panel by Natera will test for the most common recessive disease that are recommended to be verified prior to trying for pregnancy or in pregnancy. If you desire, or your insurance requires, we can order each test individual through Sparrow lab.
- ***What if my test is positive?*** This means that you are a carrier for that genetic issue. Your partner would need to be tested to understand what the risk of passing on this genetic issue. We will recommend you to reach out to the Natera genetic counselor for a visit and to help facilitate testing for your partner. You can set up an appointment by phone by texting “SESSION” to 636363 or through Natera’s website.
https://my.natera.com/services/genetic_information
- ***What is the cost of the test?*** Natera will charge you \$249 for the test if you “self-pay”. You can also submit the test through your insurance carrier. If your out-of-pocket cost is anticipated to be more than \$249, Natera will reach out to offer you self-pay.