

Genetic Carrier Screening

Genetic carrier screening is available to everyone. You do not need to be an IVF patient to use Monash IVF's genetic carrier screening test.

What is genetic carrier screening?

Genetic carrier screening is a test that assesses your chance of passing on a single gene condition to your child(ren). These conditions occur when each reproductive parent is a carrier of a genetic change which is passed on to their child, or a woman carries a genetic change on the X chromosome which is passed on to a male child (XY). Some examples of single gene conditions include cystic fibrosis, fragile X syndrome and spinal muscular atrophy.

Who should consider genetic carrier screening?

Importantly, individuals do not have to be IVF patients or be undergoing fertility treatment to consider genetic carrier screening. In fact, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists recommends that **all individuals planning a pregnancy consider genetic carrier screening.**

Although genetic carrier screening can be done at any time, it is recommended that you have this test before you are pregnant. If you are already pregnant, you can still have this testing in addition to other screening tests during pregnancy such as non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT).

I don't have a family history of genetic conditions. Do I still need the screening?

The majority of children with single gene conditions are born into families with no other affected family members, and about 1 in 20 reproductive couples who have genetic carrier screening will find out they have an increased chance of having a child with a single gene condition.

Additional Notes

What does the screening entail?

Monash IVF now provides at-home genetic carrier screening for everyone; not just IVF patients. The test process is simple:

1. Order the screening kit online at [MonashIVF.com](https://www.monashivf.com)
2. Receive an email from the Monash IVF genetic counselling team with the details of your test and a consent form.
3. If you are pregnant, you will receive a phone call advising you that a blood test is preferred, and we will email you a pathology form. Otherwise, look out for the at-home genetic carrier screening test in the mail.
4. When the kit arrives, follow the instructions to provide a saliva sample.
5. Mail your sample back using the reply-paid envelope in your kit or drop it off at an eligible clinic.
6. Receive your results and supporting information via email or phone from our genetic counselling team (usually within 4-6 weeks).

How much does the screening cost?

The Monash IVF genetic carrier screening kit costs \$695 for an individual or \$1250 for a couple*. This includes saliva testing kits, support from our genetic counsellors and a pre-paid return envelope. We strongly recommend that testing is performed simultaneously for reproductive couples in order to avoid delays and take advantage of the discounted couple pricing.

***These prices are correct as of 1 November 2021. For up to date pricing please visit [monashivf.com](https://www.monashivf.com)**

What if the results say we are at-risk?

If you are one of the 1 in 20 reproductive couples with an increased chance of having a child with a single gene condition, our experienced genetic counselling team will talk to you about your reproductive options and help you decide what may be best for your individual situation. These options may include testing in pregnancy, testing after the birth of a child, considering IVF with a gamete donor or considering IVF with preimplantation genetic testing of embryos. The Monash IVF team are here to support you, whichever option you choose.

More information

For more information or to order a genetic carrier screening kit, scan the QR code or visit [monashivf.com/services/genetic-testing/carrier-screening](https://www.monashivf.com/services/genetic-testing/carrier-screening)

