

FAMILY PLANNING & GENETICS

Family Prep Screen – Carrier Screening for Informed Family Planning

This is a special blood test which is useful to consider in addition to our premarital packages. It analyses your DNA for serious genetic diseases that you may not be aware of. Many of us are carriers of genetic diseases that do not impact our daily lives. Most of the time, being a carrier will not affect our health. But couples who are both carriers of the same disease are at increased risk of having children affected with serious form of the medical condition. Finding out about carrier status will allow both of you ample time to make the best decision in health care planning, diagnosis and treatment.

This genetic test includes a broad spectrum of medical conditions.

Of the conditions assessed –

80 impact life expectancy or quality of life – eg muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis

59 have treatment options available eg Wilson disease

45 carry significant risk of intellectual disability eg Fragile X syndrome

Who can consider this test?

- 1) Couples who are planning to start a family
- 2) Individuals with known family history of consanguinity

Limitations of test

No genetic screen is able to identify every carrier for every disease. Although, the test covers many medical conditions, it cannot screen for all possible birth defects or genetic diseases.

What if I am a carrier?

If you test positive for a medical condition in the Family Prep Screen, you are a carrier. Many carriers are well with no manifestations of the condition. When both parents are carriers of the same disease, they have a 25% risk of having a child with life-long health issues. Armed with this information, you can work with your healthcare provider regarding various options and make choices that feel right for both of you. Examples include – IVF with preimplantation genetic diagnosis or prenatal diagnosis using chorionic villus sample, amniocentesis, early specialist care.

Tests Available – results ready 3 weeks	Price inclusive of Consultation & GST
Family Prep Screen Individual	\$2600
Family Prep Screen Couple	\$4500