

# Reproductive Carrier Screening

Reproductive Carrier Screening (RCS) is a genetic test that can be done before pregnancy or in the early stage of pregnancy. The test can identify a couple's chance of having a child with a genetic condition/s. Reproductive Carrier Screening is recommended to all people planning a pregnancy even if the individuals themselves are healthy and lack a family history of genetic conditions.

## Is testing optional?

Yes, the test is optional. There are a range of companies that offer carrier screening, you can decide which test and provider suits you best.

## How much does it cost?

Prices differ depending on the test, the provider and number of conditions included. Currently, Medicare covers the cost of the 3 gene carrier screen (items 73451 & 73452). Expanded carrier screening is not currently covered by Medicare and has out of pocket costs.

## Will testing give me any personal health information?

For some genetic conditions that are included in screening, there might be health implications for you. A genetics health professional can provide more information about these implications.

## How do I order the tests?

Your healthcare provider including a GP, obstetrician and midwife can help facilitate ordering RCS. There are also some private genetic clinics that can provide support in understanding your options and order RCS:

- [Genea](#)
- [The Genetic Clinic](#)
- [IVF Australia](#)
- [Monash IVF](#)
- [North Shore Genetics](#)
- [First Light Genetics](#)
- [Private Genetics Health](#)
- [Sydney Ultrasound for Women](#)
- [Ultrasound Care](#)

## What conditions are screened?

The specific genetic conditions screened differ depending on what test option you choose. Generally the options fall into two categories;

1. **3 - gene Carrier Screen** : Screens the three most common genetic conditions in European populations: Cystic Fibrosis (CF), Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and Fragile X. *This test is Medicare funded.*
2. **Expanded Carrier Screening**: Screens for many genetic conditions, including many rare genetic conditions. There are many options, specific lists can be found on provider websites

## What test providers offer RCS?

- [Sonic Genetics](#)
- [Victorian Clinical Genetics Services](#)
- [Eugene](#)
- [Invitae](#)
- [Genea](#)
- [Monash IVF](#)
- [Australian Clinical Labs](#)
- [Genomic Diagnostics](#)
- [Virtus Diagnostics](#)
- [Repromed](#)
- [Lumi](#)

Detailed information is available on the service provider websites. You can compare the tests to see which options is best suited to you. Some providers include genetic counselling with the test.



The following fact sheet provides more detailed information about reproductive carrier screening: [https://www.genetics.edu.au/PDF/Reproductive\\_carrier\\_screening\\_fact\\_sheet-CGE.pdf](https://www.genetics.edu.au/PDF/Reproductive_carrier_screening_fact_sheet-CGE.pdf)