

# Cystic Fibrosis Screening Information



## What is cystic fibrosis?

- Cystic fibrosis is a serious disease.
- People who have cystic fibrosis have problems with their lungs, bowels, pancreas, and other organs. This is because their organs may be covered in thick, sticky mucus.
- People who have cystic fibrosis often do not live past their 40s.

## What causes cystic fibrosis?

- Each person has thousands of genes. You get genes from your parents. Genes play a big role in who you are, how you look, and your health.
- We all have 2 genes called CFTR. People who have cystic fibrosis have the disease because they got abnormal (not normal) CFTR genes from both of their parents.

## Why should I take this test?

- This test will let us know if your CFTR genes are abnormal. If your CFTR genes are abnormal, you are a carrier for cystic fibrosis.
- Being a carrier does not mean that you have cystic fibrosis. But your baby may get the disease if the father of your baby is also a carrier.

## What do the results tell me?

The results tell you if your CFTR genes are normal.

- **If your CFTR genes are normal**, there is still a low chance that your baby may have cystic fibrosis. This is because the test can only pick up on some CFTR gene problems. The test can't find all CFTR gene problems.
- **If your CFTR genes are abnormal**, you are a carrier for cystic fibrosis. Your baby may get the disease if the father of your baby is also a carrier.

## What happens during the test?

We will take some blood. We will send your blood to a lab so that it can be tested.

## What happens to my blood after the test?

The lab will throw away your blood after the test. If the results show that you need more testing, the lab will keep your blood for up to 6 months.

## How much does this test cost?

Your health insurance will pay for this test. If you do not have health insurance, you may have to pay for this test.