HOW QUICKLY CAN I EXPECT RESULTS?

- Your results will be available within two weeks after your sample is received. Your healthcare provider will discuss your results with you and any additional testing that is indicated. You may also set up a one-time phone consultation with one of our certified genetic counselors after testing is complete to discuss your results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website:
www.GeneAware.clinical.bcm.edu
or call: 1-800-411-GENE (4363) or 713-798-6555

GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO MAKE EMPOWERED FAMILY PLANNING DECISIONS

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REPRODUCTIVE CARRIER SCREEN

geneaware

Patients

WHAT IS THE GENEAWARE REPRODUCTIVE CARRIER SCREEN?

- **GeneAware** is a new carrier screening test from Baylor Miraca Genetics Laboratories. This test is a tool to benefit those searching for more information about genetic risks to their current or future pregnancies. The results provide information about your and your partner's risk for having a child with certain genetic conditions, such as cystic fibrosis, Tay-Sachs disease, Fragile X syndrome and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The test analyzes your DNA to determine if you carry a mutation related to these and other conditions.

- The **GeneAware** carrier screen focuses on two primary types of genetic disorders, those that will have a significant impact on a child's health and those that may be treatable if detected early.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CARRIER?

- Every person has two copies of each genetic instruction or gene in their body. For many genetic disorders, if a person has one copy of a particular gene with a genetic change or mutation in it and the other copy is normal, then that person is referred to as a "carrier". This is the case for autosomal recessive genetic disorders. Typically carriers do not have any symptoms of the disorder because in order for a person to have symptoms of an autosomal recessive disorder they need to have two non-working copies of the gene. When a mother or a father is a carrier, they could pass on the mutation they carry to any of their children, but their children would only be at risk of having symptoms of the condition if both parents are carriers of the same condition.

- There are a few conditions that only need to be carried by the mother for the baby to be at risk of having the disorder. These are called X-linked disorders. An example of this is Fragile X syndrome.

- If both parents are carriers of the same autosomal recessive genetic condition, the risk with each pregnancy would be:

  - *1 in 4 (25%) chance that the baby will inherit the normal gene from both mom and dad and will neither be a carrier nor affected with the disorder.*

  - *1 in 2 (50%) chance that the baby will inherit a normal gene from one parent and a mutation from the other parent and will be a carrier.*

  - *1 in 4 (25%) chance that the baby will inherit two mutations, one from mom and one from dad, and will be affected with the disorder.*

- If a woman is a carrier of an X-linked condition, each of her pregnancies is at increased risk for this condition, particularly if she is having a boy.

WHO SHOULD GET TESTED?

- Anyone who is currently pregnant or planning a pregnancy may want to consider carrier screening. Additionally, individuals who have a family history of a genetic condition may want to determine their risk to have a child with the condition.

WHY SHOULD I BE TESTED?

- Choosing the **GeneAware** carrier screening will help determine if you are at an increased risk of having a child with an inherited disease. If your test results are negative, your risk for having a child with a condition included in this panel is reduced. If your results indicate that you are a carrier, then you and your partner can talk more with your healthcare professional about additional testing and reproductive options.

HOW CAN I GET TESTED?

- Your healthcare provider must order the **GeneAware** reproductive carrier screen for you. You may be tested individually or simultaneously with your reproductive partner. If you are tested as a couple, your report will give your combined risk based on your results for having a child with the conditions on the **GeneAware** panel. You do not have to be tested with your partner to receive a personal risk assessment once your testing is completed. Once you have discussed the test with your healthcare provider, all that is required to complete this screen is a simple blood draw.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- Many insurance companies will cover **GeneAware**. Our billing department is available to help you determine your out-of-pocket cost.