



On November 1, 2023, the federal government introduced a new initiative which will see Medicare cover the cost of reproductive carrier screening for three common conditions in the

Australian population; cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy, and Fragile X syndrome.

This initiative is expected to address potential health equity concerns, and reduce social and financial barriers. It aims to ensure that everyone has equal access to this important test when planning a family, gives them the knowledge and choices they need to make informed decisions about the health of their future children.

Approximately one in 240 (0.4%) Australian couples¹ will be identified as high-risk for having a child with one of the three screened conditions.

We encourage you to have discussions with your patients about carrier screening.

Free genetic counselling information session

At FertilitySA, couples identified through carrier screening as having an increased

chance of conceiving a child affected with one of the screened conditions can access a free FertilitySA genetic counselling session with our leading genetic counsellors and fertility concierges.

A free no-obligation, one-off video consultation with a FertilitySA genetic counsellor will cover:

- Details about the condition and their reproductive options, such as test at birth prenatal diagnosis (CVS and amniocentesis).
- A discussion about the process of IVF and preimplantation genetic testing (PGT-A & PGT-M) of embryos, including details about time frames, tests, sample requirements and costs.
- We can then link your patient with one of our fertility concierges for further specific information about the IVF process.

You can refer your high-risk patients for a free genetic counselling session by contacting the FertilitySA Genetic counselling team:

Phone: 02 8484 6548

Email: genetic.counsellors@genea.com.au

¹Archibald, A et al., Genet Med. 2018; 20(5):513-526