



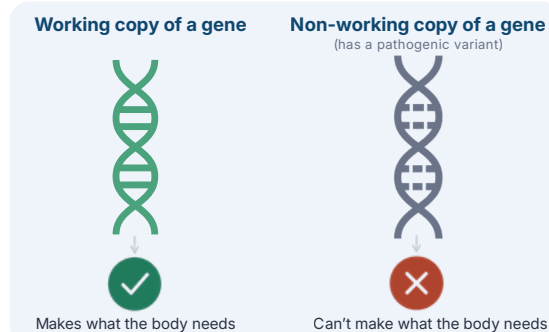
What It Means to Be a Carrier

Your test results showed that you are a carrier of a recessive condition.

This guide explains what that means.

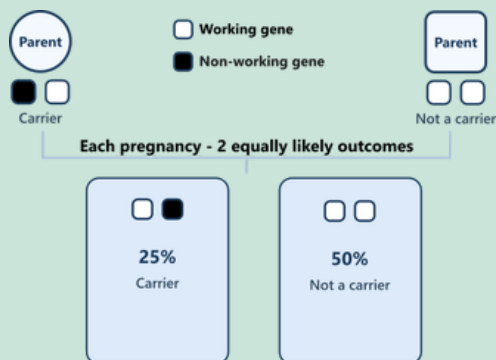
WHAT A CARRIER IS

A carrier has **one working copy** and **one non-working copy** of a specific gene (also called a pathogenic variant). The working copy does its job and can make up for the non-working copy of the gene. Usually being a carrier would not cause symptoms in any way. In rare cases, some carriers may experience mild effects.



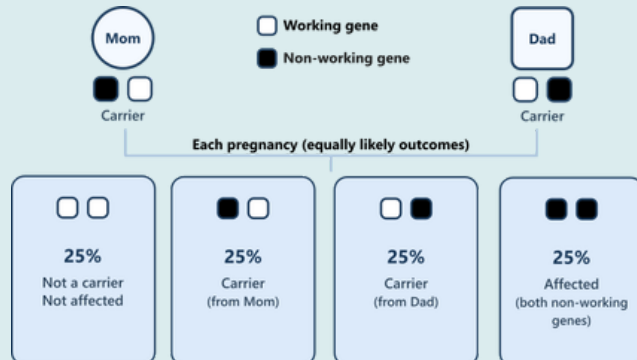
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR A FUTURE CHILD

If one parent is a carrier



The chance of a child being affected by the condition is very low. They could be a carrier, just like you.

If both parents are carriers



If both of you are carriers, there is a 75% your child will not be affected (whether or not they're a carrier), and a 25% chance your child will have the condition.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Does being a carrier affect my health?

Being a carrier of a recessive condition typically does not impact your health. In some cases, some carriers of certain conditions may experience mild effects.

What are my options if my partner and I are both carriers of the same condition?

Given 25% chance of having an affected child, you would be eligible for prenatal diagnostic testing (Amniocentesis or CVS). Your genetic counsellor can walk you through your options.

Does my carrier status mean my children will be affected?

It depends: if your partner is also a carrier of a variant in the same gene, each pregnancy has a 25% of the child being affected. If only one of you is a carrier, the chance is low, but there is still a 50% chance they'll inherit the carrier status.

Who in my family should get tested?

Since recessive genes run silently in families, any relative planning a pregnancy would be eligible for familial variant testing.