

Cystic Fibrosis Carrier Testing

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### B. Background

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disorder that causes the body to make thick, sticky secretions that clog the lungs and other organs such as the digestive system. More than 10 million Americans are carriers of a defective cystic fibrosis gene and show no symptoms of the disease. Cystic fibrosis is a recessive disorder, therefore an abnormal gene must be inherited from both parents in order for the child to develop the disease. Carrier testing may provide an early indication as to whether a fetus might either be a carrier or might have cystic fibrosis.

### C. Definitions

- Carrier – An individual that exhibits

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