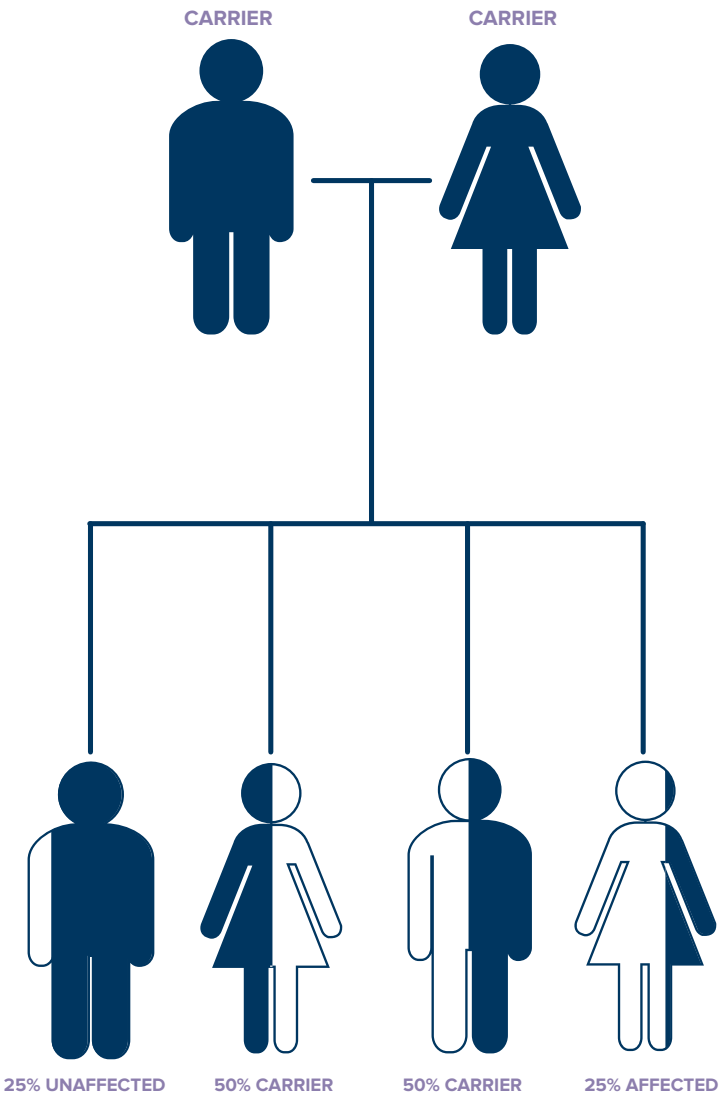
Springfield Clinic's Center for Women's Health

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Carrier Testing



Springfield clinic

A COMMUNITY OF CARING

SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare hereditary disease that a baby has from birth. "Hereditary" means that you do not give a disease to your baby through life style risk factors, like smoking. Instead, it is a disease that is in your genetic makeup. For example, if you and your partner each have one gene carrying SMA (this is called being a carrier), your children have a 25% chance of inheriting the disease. SMA does not affect carriers. Your child must have two genes (one from each parent) to have spinal muscular atrophy.

Spinal muscular atrophy affects the control of muscle movement. This disease leads to weakness of muscles used for activities such as crawling, walking, sitting up and head movement. In severe cases of spinal muscular atrophy, the muscles used for breathing and swallowing are also affected.

If you are planning to become pregnant or if you are currently pregnant, you may want to see if you are a carrier of the SMA gene. This simple lab test only needs to be done once. It will tell us if you are an SMA carrier. We will recommend more testing if we find that you are a carrier of the SMA gene.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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