

# **Understanding Cascade Screening**

#### WHAT IS CASCADE SCREENING?

Cascade screening is a way to check if family members of someone with a genetic condition might have the same gene change. A gene change, or mutation, happens when there is a change in someone's DNA. This includes screening close family members, like brothers, sisters, kids, and parents, to see if they might also be at risk.



### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- **Early detection:** Helps find if someone might have inherited a genetic condition but doesn't have symptoms yet.
- Preventive measures: Lets people start early treatments to help manage or treat the condition.
- Family health: Keeps family members healthy by telling them about their gene risks.

For people with genetic conditions like high Lipoprotein(a) {Lp(a)} and Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH), starting intervention early can help control other health risks and lower their chance of heart disease.

Cascade screening helps us know the chance of getting a genetic condition from our parents. The chance can be different for each condition and how it's passed down.



#### **50% CHANCE**

If one parent has the condition, each child has a 50% chance of getting it.



## 25% CHANCE

If both parents carry a gene for a condition, each child has a 25% chance of getting it.



Talk to your doctor about cascade screening and other genetic testing options for your specific needs.