



DeCesaris Cancer Institute Genetics Program Frequently Asked Questions

What will happen during the appointment?

You will meet with a genetic counselor. She will review your medical and family history and discuss with you if the history is suggestive of hereditary cancer. She will assess your risk to develop cancer, and will outline various management options available to you. She will also discuss genetic testing if it is appropriate based on your history, and help you to decide if you would like to pursue testing.

How long does the appointment take?

You should allow for one and one-half hours, though most appointments last about one hour.

Can I bring family members or friends?

You are encouraged to bring a family member or friend if you would find it helpful. If you bring family members, though, please understand that this is your visit and we cannot discuss their medical history or make management recommendations for them. If they would like personalized recommendations, they must schedule their own appointment.

How much does the genetic counseling session cost and does insurance cover it?

The genetic counseling visit is billed as an office visit through your insurance and typically does not require preauthorization. If you are in-network with AAMC, then the genetic counseling visit is an in-network office visit. If your insurance does not cover the cost of the visit, the cost is approximately \$80-90. If you need assistance, please call our financial counselor at: 443-481-5803. We encourage you to contact your insurance company for specific questions about insurance coverage.

How much does genetic testing cost and does insurance cover it?

Genetic testing can range in cost from a few hundred dollars to more than \$1500, depending on the specific test. Many insurance companies do cover the cost of genetic testing if the patient's personal or family history of cancer is suggestive of a hereditary cancer syndrome. If you are interested in genetic testing after you receive genetic counseling, we will discuss the genetic counseling billing process at your appointment.

There are also reduced out of pocket self-pay options for genetic testing that may be offered, depending on your personal medical and family history.

Does Medicare cover genetic counseling and genetic testing?

Medicare Part B (medical) covers some genetic tests. Coverage is determined based on age at cancer diagnosis and family history.

Q. Do you have a tele-genetics (via telephone or Skype) option for an appointment?

Our genetic counseling program does have a telegenetics contract for applicable patients, depending on your insurance and the reason for testing. If you are interested, please inquire about telegenetics when you call to make an appointment.

How is genetic testing done?

Genetic testing is usually a blood test. It does not require any special preparation, such as fasting.

Can I have the genetic test the same day as the appointment?

Your genetic testing order will need to be signed by your referring provider; this may require you to have your genetic testing performed at a later date. In some cases, the genetic testing can be done on the same day as the appointment.

Do I have to have genetic testing?

The purpose of this visit is for genetic counseling. Some people choose to have genetic testing and others do not. For those who do not want testing, we will discuss overall cancer risk and management options.

How long does it take to receive the genetic test results?

The time it takes to receive genetic test results depends on what test is ordered. It can range from 1-2 weeks, but typically averages about 2-3 weeks.

Can my insurance “drop me” if I have genetic testing?

There are federal and state laws that protect people with individually obtained and group health insurance plans from genetic discrimination. We will discuss this more during the appointment.