

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

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1. Policy (Objectives)

Risk assessment and genetic testing and counseling services are provided either on-site or by referral, by a qualified genetics professional.

The purpose of the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center risk assessment and genetics counseling program is to identify and counsel people at risk for genetic (hereditary) cancer syndromes, and those who are at high empiric risk for cancer.

The patient's physician(s), nurse practitioners, nurse navigators, social worker, and genetics professional work together to test, counsel, and support individuals at risk.

This may include:

- Identifying individuals at risk for hereditary cancer through detailed family history
- Providing counseling to patients and their family members about specific genetic cancer syndromes and each family member's risk
- Helping individuals derive meaning from their testing and counseling, and empowering them to make educated, informed decisions about:
 - Genetic testing
 - Cancer screening
 - Cancer prevention, including medical and/or surgical prophylaxis

The genetics professional will follow NCCN or AHRQ recommendations for cancer risk assessment and genetic counseling.

The genetics professional is certified and experienced in genetic principles, cancer genetics, hereditary cancer syndromes and appropriate genetics testing. *Specialized training in cancer genetics will be ongoing. Approved credentialing bodies for provision of genetics counseling include:

- A board-certified/board-eligible physician with experience in cancer genetics (defined as providing cancer risk assessment on a regular basis)
- An American College of Medical Genetics (ABMG) physician/PhD board-certified/board-eligible in clinical or medical genetics
- An advanced practice oncology nurse or physician assistant who is prepared at the graduate level (master or doctorate) with specialized

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education in cancer genetics and hereditary cancer predisposition syndromes (certification by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation is preferred)

- A Genetics Clinical Nurse (GCN), and Advanced Practice Nurse in Genetics (APNG), or an Advanced Genetics Nursing-Board Certified (AGN-BC) credentialed through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- An American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) or American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG) board-certified genetic counselor

The program provides cancer risk assessment, genetic counseling, and genetic testing services on-site or by referral. Genetic services not provided on-site at the facility must be provided through a formal referral to other facilities and/or local agencies. The cancer committee will monitor, evaluate, and make recommendations for improvements (as needed) and document in the cancer committee minutes.

2. Procedure

The genetics professional, working with physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, family members, and psychosocial support staff, provides accurate risk assessment and empathetic counseling to patients and their families in both the pre- and post-test periods

Pre-Test Counseling shall include, at the minimum:

- At least a three generation detailed pedigree including the medical information on first, second, and third degree relatives
- Collection of detailed maternal and paternal history
- Collection of ethnic/ancestry history
- Performing a psychosocial assessment, and when appropriate, referral for psychosocial support
- Educating patients about cancer risks with gene mutations to include discussion of inheritance patterns and concepts of penetration and variable expressivity
- Discussion of baseline risk of developing cancer(s)
- Discussion of absolute risk that patient will develop a specific type of cancer, based on history alone
- Discussion of basic genetic principles (explanation of genes, gene mutations, and how gene mutations lead to cancer)
- Discussion of the risk of carrying cancer susceptibility gene independent of family history
- If genetic testing is deemed appropriate, discussing the risks and benefits of testing, and obtaining informed consent

Post-test Counseling shall include:

- Discussion of test results with both the patient and the patient's medical provider
- Significance and impact of the results to the patient and their

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offspring

- Medical management options to reduce risk
- Discussion of informing other relatives of the results
- Disclosure of available resources in the patient's area
- Provision of easy access to patient for questions or concerns in the future

The Cancer Committee membership actively participates in the genetics program development and evaluation.

3. References

- Commission on Cancer 2016 Standard 2.3
- American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines
- American Cancer Society (ACS) Guidelines
- American Board of Genetic Counseling
- American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics
- American College of Medical Genetics

Previous Revision Dates

Approval
Cancer Committee

Date
2/3/16