
IDENTIFYING GENETIC & CANCER SPECIALISTS FOR CONSULTATION

Collaborate with specialists to deliver cancer services to your patients.

One of the outcomes of risk assessment should be to identify individuals with a high cancer risk based on their personal and family histories, who should undergo further genetic evaluation for hereditary cancer syndromes. Cancer care providers and genetic experts can be a source for answers about risk assessment, genetic testing, risk communication, surveillance and risk reduction. You may develop a relationship in which you can call on these team members directly for consultation, as well as referring patients for specialty care.

PARTICIPANTS

Implementation lead

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

[Accessing Genetic Services Tool](#)

BARRIERS

Limited access to genetic services, lack of knowledge of local specialists

LEARN MORE

[Referring to a Genetic Expert](#)

STEPS

- 1** Identify a team of specialists who can collaborate in your patient's diagnosis, treatment, and management. Collect this information in one place to make referrals and care transitions more efficient.
- 2** Find your local genetic providers. Genetic counselors, clinical geneticists, and physicians, nurses, and physician assistants with specialty genetic training/expertise may be available in your institution or you may need to contact someone elsewhere. You can find a genetic specialist through:
 - National Society of Genetic Counselors (www.nsgc.org)
 - American Board of Medical Genetics (www.abmgg.org)
 - International Society of Nurses in Genetics (www.isong.org)

It can sometimes be challenging to find a genetic expert locally. There are some opportunities available for telecounseling through academic institutions and businesses. The National Society of Genetic Counselors search function includes information about telegenetics options.

If your practice has a relationship with a genetic testing laboratory, the lab may provide access to genetic experts to support the provider and/or provide direct patient counseling.

- 3** Consider contacting your local genetic and/or cancer specialists prior to making a referral to learn more about their services.
- 4** Inform genetic specialists about your practice's risk assessment program and referral protocols. Ideally this should be a collaborative process, with bidirectional patient and information flow over time.