

Before your appointment

In order to accurately assess your family, it is important to gather as much information as possible about the family history of cancer.

- Once we receive a referral we will send you forms to help you collect your family history details.
- We may also send you consent forms that allow us to access records confirming the diagnosis of cancer in other family members.
- Copies of medical reports, doctor's letters and/or death certificates for family members who have had cancer are very helpful to us.

All information provided before, during, or after your appointment is treated confidentially.

The Familial Cancer Registry

The Registry is a service for individuals and families at increased risk of developing cancer.

The Registry provides the following services:

- Up-to-date surveillance recommendations.
- An optional reminder service for when your surveillance is due.
- A regular newsletter with updates on research and information about inherited cancer.

Outreach Services

As well as our metropolitan clinics, we also conduct genetic consultations at regional outreach clinics in:

Albany
Bunbury
Geraldton
Kalgoorlie
Port Hedland

Our contact details

Genetic Services of Western Australia
Familial Cancer Program
King Edward Memorial Hospital
374 Bagot Road, SUBIACO WA 6008
Telephone: (08) 9340 1603
Facsimile: (08) 9340 1725
Email: fcp@health.wa.gov.au

This document can be made available in alternative formats such as computer disc, audiotape or Braille, on request.



Produced by the Familial Cancer Program,
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of Population Health Genomics,
Department of Health (WA)

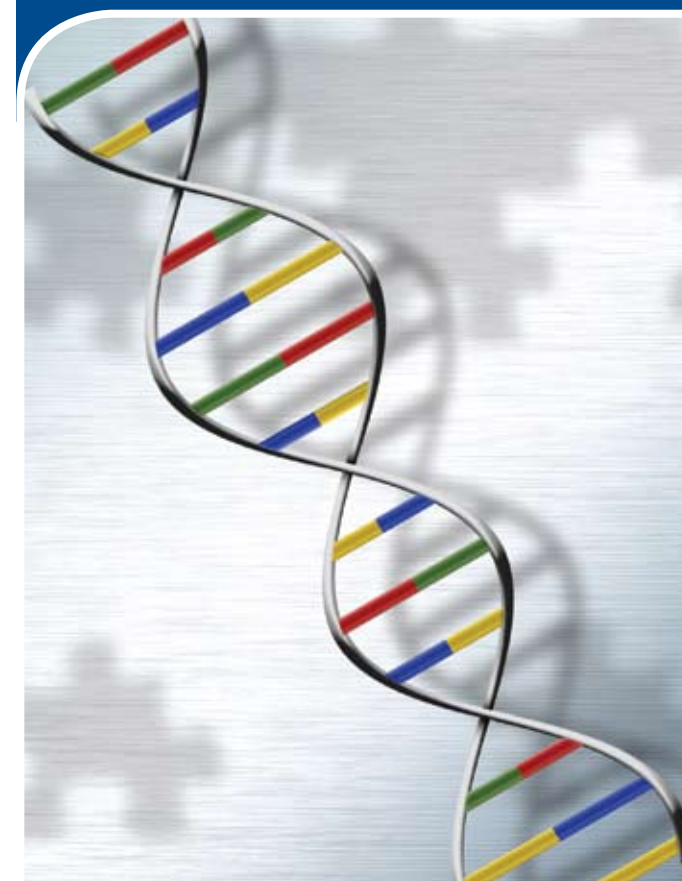
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Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Familial Cancer Program

Genetic Services of WA



Cancer Risk

- Most cancers occur by chance as a normal part of ageing.
- 1 in every 3 people will have some form of cancer during their lifetime.
- As cancer is common, a number of people in the same family may have cancer by chance alone.
- Only a small number of cancers (less than 1 in 20 or 5%) are due to a genetic factor that may be inherited and passed down through the family.

Familial Cancer

You, and members of your family, may be at increased risk of cancer due to a hereditary predisposition if you have:

- relatives with cancer at a young age (less than 50 years old)
- relatives with more than one separate primary cancer (not a recurrence of the same cancer)
- several relatives on the same side of the family who develop cancer
- a relative who has been found to carry a genetic change that predisposes to cancer

Our service

We offer a range of services by telephone and at clinic appointments to people with a personal or family history of cancer. We can:

- provide you with information about inherited cancers
- assess your risk of developing an inherited cancer based on your medical and family history
- assess whether genetic testing is possible in your family
- recommend surveillance and risk management options
- discuss lifestyle strategies to foster good health and reduce your risk of developing cancer
- answer questions and address any concerns you may have
- provide support and short term counselling
- support and facilitate familial cancer research

About us

- Genetic Counsellors are health professionals with training in genetics and counselling. We provide information and support to individuals and families who have concerns about a genetic condition in their family.
- Geneticists are specialist medical doctors with training in clinical genetics and genetic counselling. We offer genetic counselling, diagnostic services and arrange genetic testing.

Genetic Testing

- Genetic testing is only possible in some families.
- Genetic testing in a family must start with a relative who has had cancer.
- It is not always possible to detect a gene change in the family.
- If a gene change is found, testing can be offered to family members who have not had cancer, in order to clarify their risks.

Genetic counselling is required before and after testing, and is an opportunity for you to ask questions and discuss any concerns you may have.

Making an appointment

Your doctor or specialist can refer you to GSWA or you can contact us directly.

Appointments may take up to one hour, and you may need more than one appointment. You can bring your partner or another support person with you.

There is no charge for these services if you have a Medicare card.