

Hereditary Cancer Program

Richard J. Flamson Hereditary Screening Program



What is hereditary cancer?

Many people worry about being diagnosed with cancer, especially if close relatives have had cancer. Although most cancers are not hereditary, in some families a predisposition to cancer is passed down from one generation to the next. Hereditary cancer risk assessment at Hoag Cancer Institute can help identify families with true hereditary cancer risk.

Benefits of this service

- Knowing your risk allows for early detection and/or reduction in risk of developing cancer.
- A better understanding of your cancer risk can provide relief from uncertainty and increased peace of mind.
- This life-saving service can be a gift to your family.

Who should consider hereditary cancer assessment?

Anyone with a family history of cancer can benefit from hereditary cancer assessment.

High-risk family characteristics include:

Hereditary Breast/Ovarian Cancer

- Breast cancer under age 40-50
- Ovarian cancer at any age
- Breast and ovarian cancer in an individual or family
- Male breast cancer
- Breast or ovarian cancer in an Ashkenazi Jewish family
- Multiple individuals with breast cancer on the same side of the family

Hereditary Colon Cancer

- Colorectal cancer under age 50
- Endometrial (uterine) cancer under age 50
- Multiple colon polyps
- More than one of the following cancers in an individual or family: colon, rectal, endometrial, gastric, ovarian, pancreas, ureter/renal pelvis, biliary tract, small bowel, brain, and sebaceous adenoma/carcinoma

We also see families for other inherited cancer conditions.



Continued on reverse

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What Hoag's team can do for you

- Provide information on cancer, genetics and inheritance and how it applies to you and your family
- Record your family history and assess your hereditary cancer risk
- Discuss the benefits and limitations of genetic testing
- Coordinate appropriate genetic testing
- Assist with information about insurance coverage
- Interpret genetic testing results for you and your family
- Provide counseling and emotional support
- Provide written assessment to you and your physicians

What about privacy and confidentiality?

In 2008, a federal law called the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) was passed. The law prohibits health insurance companies and employers from discriminating against individuals based solely on their genetic information. California law provides additional protection.

Your privacy is very important to us and is protected throughout the process. Information will be released only with your consent.

Does my insurance cover this?

Many insurance companies will cover all or part of the cost of these services. Because each plan is different, we recommend that you check with your insurance company for specifics.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact Hoag's Hereditary Cancer Program at 949-764-5764, or email hereditarycancer@hoag.org. Visit www.hoag.org/hereditarycancer for more information.

Hoag's Hereditary Cancer Program provides counseling appointments at two locations, Newport Beach and Irvine.

