

# GENETIC RISK SERVICES

**Providing useful information and  
reassurance to individuals concerned  
about their cancer risk**



*Lee Cancer Care*

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LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM

## About Hereditary Cancer

*Cancer is a common disease with complex causes, many of which are not completely understood. Recent advances in cancer genetics have led to the identification of genes that, when altered, cause significantly increased risk for certain cancers. Although most cases of cancer are not due to single, inherited gene alterations, a small percentage are part of hereditary cancer syndromes.*

### **Some Features Often Seen In Hereditary Cancer Syndromes Include:**

- Clustering of certain types of cancer in a family
- Cancer occurring at younger ages
- Cancer in more than one generation
- More than one type of cancer in the same individual
- Individuals with rare cancers, such as male breast cancers or medullary thyroid cancer

### **Our Genetics Risk Service Offers**

- Education about cancer genetics and cancer risk
- Individuals and family cancer risk assessments
- Guidance about whether genetic testing is appropriate
- Discussion in detail of the risks, benefits, implications and limitations of genetic testing

### **How Might An Evaluation Benefit You?**

You could:

- Gain a more accurate estimate of your personal cancer risk
- Decrease worry—individuals often overestimate their own cancer risk
- Increase the chance of early cancer detection
- Become aware, in some cases, of increased risks for more than one type of cancer
- Gather information to make the best decisions for yourself
- Identify family members who have an increased risk of cancer
- Gain reassurance, in some cases, that you and family members are not at risk of cancer and do not need extra cancer screening

### **What Can I Expect To Happen During My Visit?**

The first contact is by phone. We will answer questions you may have about the service and ask for some preliminary

information regarding your family history. Prior to your first visit, we will send you information that will help you collect your family history. The first visit usually lasts an hour to an hour and a half and subsequent visits are shorter. Your evaluation and testing may take one to three visits.

## **Genetics Counseling Is A Process**

Our counseling includes:

- Obtaining your medical and family histories and drawing a detailed pedigree (family tree)
- Giving you information on cancer genetics, risk and the results of testing
- Discussing courses of action and choices for cancer screening to reduce risk, as well as their associated benefits, risks and limitations
- Discussing, when appropriate, the option of genetic testing for cancer susceptibility genes
- Obtaining informed consent and drawing a small amount of blood if genetic testing is chosen
- Reviewing with you the results of your genetics test

## **Is Cancer Risk Counseling Right For You?**

If you are concerned about your risk of cancer, cancer risk counseling by specialized healthcare professionals can help you better understand your risks and the options available to you and your family.

## **Are You At Risk For Hereditary Cancer?**

The answers to the following questions help to identify people who may be at risk for a hereditary cancer:

- In your mother's or father's family, including you, have two people related by blood had the same type of cancer?
- Including yourself, has anyone in your family had cancer in matching organs?
- Including yourself, has anyone in your family had cancer at age 50 or younger?
- Including yourself, has anyone in your family had two different cancers that began in two different organs?

*If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, you may want more information about genetics counseling. Please call the genetics counselor at Lee Cancer Care for an appointment: 239-334-5346.*





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**239-334-5346**

P.O. Box 2218  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-9984