

Referral Guidelines: Family History of Cancer

High Risk Families to be Referred to the North-West Regional Genetic Service

Assessment of cancer risk is based on the analysis of a three-generation family tree on both sides of the family.

- A *first degree* relative is a parent, sibling or child.
- A *second degree* relative is an aunt, uncle, grandparent or grandchild.
- Affected relatives must be on the same side of the family.
- A lesser family history of cancer may still significantly increase the risk if the family is of Jewish or non-white ethnic origin. If in doubt, please discuss.

Breast Cancer

- 1 first degree relative with breast cancer < 30 with any other history of cancer < 60 in another first degree or second degree relative.
- 2 relatives (first or second degree) from the same side of the family, diagnosed with breast cancer at an average age of < 50.
- 3 relatives (first or second degree) from the same side of the family, diagnosed with breast cancer at an average age of < 60.
- 4 relatives from the same side of the family, diagnosed with breast cancer at any age.
- 1 first or second degree relative with breast cancer < 50 and 1 first or second degree relative with ovarian cancer (on same side of the family).
- 2 relatives (first or second degree) diagnosed with breast cancer at an average age of < 60 and 1 first or second degree relative with ovarian cancer at any age.
- 1 first degree male relative with breast cancer < 60.
- 1 first degree male relative with breast cancer at any age and 1 first or second degree relative with breast or ovarian cancer.

Notes

- 1 first or second degree relative with bilateral breast cancer can be considered to be equivalent to 2 affected relatives.
- A paternal family history is as important as maternal family history.
- See also NICE guidelines for familial breast cancer at www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=203181

Ovarian Cancer

- 2 or more first or second degree relatives diagnosed with ovarian cancer at any age.
- 1 first or second degree relative with ovarian cancer and 1 first or second degree relative with breast cancer, at least 1 of whom was diagnosed < 50.
- 1 first or second degree relative with ovarian cancer and 2 first or second degree relatives with bowel and endometrial cancer (on the same side of the family), at least 1 diagnosed < 50.
- 1 first degree relative with breast and ovarian cancer as primaries, at least 1 diagnosed < 60.

Bowel Cancer

- 1 first degree relative diagnosed < 35.

- 2 first degree relatives on the same side of the family diagnosed < 60.
- 3 or more first or second degree relatives on the same side of the family diagnosed at any age.
- Bowel and endometrial cancer in first or second degree relatives on the same side of the family, with bowel cancer diagnosed < 50.
- Bowel and ovarian cancer in first or second degree relatives on the same side of the family, with bowel cancer diagnosed <50.
- 2 endometrial cancers < 60 on the same side of the family, even if no bowel cancer.
- Patients with a family history of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis, Lynch Syndrome (HNPCC), juvenile polyposis or Peutz-Jegher syndrome.

Prostate Cancer

- 2 first or second degree relatives on the same side of the family with prostate cancer both < 60.
- 3 relatives on the same side of the family with prostate cancer any age.

General

Families with a pattern of cancer diagnoses unlikely to be due to chance:

- Unusually early age of onset of cancer.
- Individuals with multiple primaries.
- Familial clustering of less common cancer in first or second degree relatives, e.g. pancreas, stomach, melanoma, testis.

If you would like to discuss particular family histories prior to referral, please contact:

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