

## Inova's Cancer Genetics Program

serves those who are concerned about the possibility of inherited cancer based on their personal and/or family history. We see patients and families with many different types of cancers, including breast, ovarian and colon cancer. Patients often find that bringing a support person to their cancer genetic counseling appointment is helpful.

Our board-certified genetic counselors are trained to help patients and their relatives navigate through complex medical information and the practical implications of genetic testing.

As an integral part of the Inova Translational Medicine Institute, the Cancer Genetics Program demonstrates Inova's commitment to being a leader in the field of genomics.

## Locations

### Alexandria

1800 North Beauregard St.  
Suite 50  
Alexandria, VA 22311

### Fairfax

2700 Prosperity Ave.  
Suite 100  
Fairfax, VA 22031

### Fair Oaks

3580 Joseph Siewick Dr.  
Suite LL-005  
Fairfax, VA 22033

### Loudoun

44035 Riverside Pkwy.  
Radiation Oncology  
Suite 100  
Leesburg, VA 20176

*To schedule an appointment,  
call 703.698.2491.*

[inova.org/cancer-genetics](http://inova.org/cancer-genetics)



## What is cancer genetic counseling?

Though the majority of cancers in adults are sporadic and are not related to the inherited genes or to lifestyle, a small percentage of cancer (about 5-10%) is hereditary.

At Inova, cancer genetic counseling is provided by board- certified genetic counselors who are Master's-level health professionals trained in cancer risk assessment, as well as in the special counseling needs of patients who choose to undergo genetic testing.

Cancer genetic counseling includes:

- Reviewing medical history, family history (including type(s) of cancer and age(s) at diagnosis), other cancer risk factors and prior genetic testing results if available
- Estimating a person's risk for developing specific cancers
- Assessing the likelihood that the cancer(s) in a family are hereditary
- Discussing the benefits, limitations and risks of relevant genetic testing
- Coordinating genetic testing
- Providing follow-up counseling to discuss the test results and their implications
- Providing personalized cancer screening and prevention recommendations

## Who can benefit from cancer genetic counseling?

Cancer genetic counseling is helpful for those with a personal and/or family history of:

- Early-onset cancers, such as breast or colon cancer diagnosed before age 50
- The same or related cancers in two or more close relatives
- Multiple primary tumors (for example, a woman with colon and endometrial cancer, or a man with colon and stomach cancer)
- Bilateral cancers (for example, a woman with cancer in both breasts or a person with cancers in both kidneys)
- Rare cancers, such as pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer, or male breast cancer
- Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jewish ancestry, with a personal and/or family history of breast or ovarian cancer

## Will my insurance cover the cost of genetic testing?

Genetic testing for hereditary cancer is typically covered by health insurance for people with suggestive personal and/or family histories of cancer. Your genetic counselor can discuss the likelihood of insurance coverage based on your personal and/or family history, as well as the options for verification of coverage. Self-pay options are also available.

## Can my insurance company discriminate against me if I have genetic testing?

Federal laws exist to protect patients from health insurance or employment discrimination on the basis of genetic information, including family history and genetic test results. Some laws provide protection only for those who do not have a personal history of cancer at the time of genetic testing. There is currently no direct evidence that people are experiencing health insurance discrimination associated with cancer genetic testing.

Importantly, current federal laws do not prohibit the use of family history or genetic test results by life insurers, long-term care insurers, or disability insurers when making decisions about a new or existing policy.

For additional information on the protections provided by, and the limitations of current legislation related to genetics, please visit the National Human Genome Research Institute's Web site: [www.genome.gov](http://www.genome.gov) and click on "Issues in Genetics" and then click on "Genetic Discrimination." Please let your genetic counselor know if you have further questions.