



University Hospitals Bristol **NHS**

NHS Foundation Trust

Patient Information Service  
**Clinical Genetics**

# The Cancer Genetics Service



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Respecting everyone  
Embracing change  
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Working together  
**Our hospitals.**



**Above + Beyond**   
For Patients. For Health. For Bristol.

## **What do we do?**

The Cancer Genetics Service is for individuals who are worried that they are at increased risk of inherited cancer as they have a number of family members with cancer. We offer:

- Genetic risk assessment.
- An explanation about possible inherited cancer-risk genes (if relevant).
- A discussion about possible screening or genetic testing (if available).
- Support for patients.

## **Who are we?**

The Cancer Genetics Service has a central department at St. Michael's hospital in Bristol and satellite departments in Bath, Gloucester and Taunton. When families are referred to the service, we try to ensure that they are seen at their nearest department either by a Clinical Geneticist or a Genetic counsellor.

## **What are inherited cancers?**

Cancer is a common condition but inherited cancers are rare. Only about 5 to 10% of all cancers are inherited. If you have a significant personal or family history of cancer we can sometimes arrange a test to see if one of these genes is present in your family.

# How do I know if I have a significant personal or family history of cancer?

1. Do you have two or more close relatives on the same side of your family with the same or a related cancer?

Cancers that can sometimes be related include:

- Breast and ovarian cancer.
  - Bowel and womb cancer.
2. Have you or a close relative had two separate cancer diagnoses (not one cancer that has spread)?
  3. Have you or a close relative been diagnosed with cancer at a much younger age than would normally be expected for that cancer type?

If you have answered 'yes' to any of these questions, please discuss your concerns with your GP or healthcare professional who can decide if you should be referred to us for a fuller assessment.

# How do I get referred to the Cancer Genetics Service?

You can ask to be referred into our service in one of two ways:

- By your GP.
- By another healthcare professional, such as hospital consultant, a breast care nurse or a practice nurse.

# What happens if I am referred?

After you are referred to the Cancer Genetics Service it can take many months before you are seen in clinic. This is because we first try to find out about your family history so that our risk assessment is as accurate as possible.

1. In most cases we will ask you to fill in a questionnaire about your family history information.
2. When this is returned to us we will try to confirm the cancers in your family. This can sometimes take several months.
3. Once we have confirmed as much as possible, your risk will be assessed by a genetics doctor.
4. a) Some patients will be invited to come to clinic to see one of our specialist genetic staff. Some of these patients may be offered additional surveillance (e.g. mammogram, colonoscopy, etc) and/or genetic testing.  
  
b) Alternatively, some patients will not be at significantly increased risk of developing cancer and will receive a letter from us explaining their level of risk.

# The Bristol Regional Genetics Service

## The Cancer Genetics Service

Hosted by University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust in association with:

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Royal United Hospital NHS Trust

Musgrove Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

If you would like to be referred, please speak to your GP. If you are a health professional and would like to know more or make a referral, please contact:

### **Clinical Genetics Department**

St. Michaels Hospital  
Southwell Street  
Bristol  
BS2 8EG



Telephone: 0117 342 5115

Telephones are manned during office hours with an answerphone service 24 hours a day. Please contact our department if you have any queries about your referral.

## Useful resources:

### **NHS Cancer Screening Programme for England**

[www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

### **Patient information from Cancer Research UK**

[www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk)

### **Macmillan Cancer Support**

Cancer is the toughest fight most of us will ever face, but you don't have to go through it alone. Macmillan is with you every step of the way.

If you have any questions about cancer, need support or just want someone to talk to, call free, Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm (interpretation service available) on **0808 808 00 00**.

Or visit [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

Supported by Macmillan Cancer Support

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CANCER SUPPORT**

**Notes**

Smoking is the primary cause of preventable illness and premature death. For support in stopping smoking contact **Smokefree Bristol** on **0117 922 2255**.

As well as providing clinical care, our Trust has an important role in research. This allows us to discover new and improved ways of treating patients.

While under our care, you may be invited to take part in research. To find out more please visit:

**[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research-innovation](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research-innovation)**  
or call the research and innovation team on  
**0117 342 0233**.

For access to other patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:

**[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/information-for-patients/](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/information-for-patients/)**

**Hospital Switchboard: 0117 923 0000**



**Minicom: 0117 934 9869**



**[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk)**



For an Interpreter or Signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in Large Print, Braille, Audio, or Email, please call the Patient Information Service:  
**0117 342 3728 / 3725**

