



Insurance

Genetic testing fees may apply. Some insurers require a referral in order for genetic testing to be covered. Patients should check with their insurance carrier for details.

For An Appointment

To initiate a referral for consultation at St. Peter's, you may call 1-888-46-FERRE (1-888-483-3773). For more information, call 518-525-6418.

ST. PETER'S CANCER CARE CENTER
Genetic Counseling

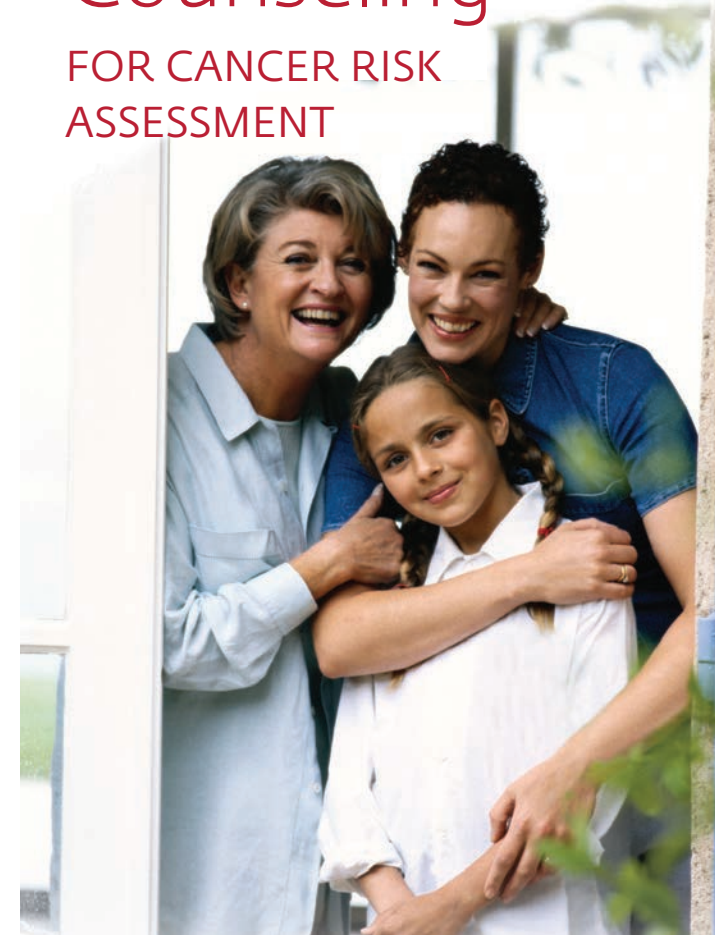
317 South Manning Boulevard
Suite 220
Albany, NY 12208
518-525-6418



ST PETER'S HEALTH PARTNERS

Genetic Counseling

FOR CANCER RISK
ASSESSMENT



ST PETER'S HEALTH PARTNERS

St. Peter's Cancer Care Center offers genetic counseling and cancer risk assessment as part of its comprehensive range of patient services.

St. Peter's Hospital is collaborating with the Ferre Institute, Inc. based in Binghamton, N.Y. to provide onsite genetic counseling at the Cancer Center on the St. Peter's Hospital campus in Albany.

Services include genetic consultation, evaluation and counseling as well as education for patients and families.



What Can A Cancer Genetic Counselor Do?

If someone has inherited an increased risk for cancer, their chance of developing cancer may be higher than the general population.

Genetic counselors can provide scientific assessment of an individual's cancer risk and accurate information about how to reduce it. Genetic counselors can explain:

- The biology and genetics of inherited cancer
- Concerns about a family history of cancer
- Cancer risk evaluation
- What genetic counseling entails

Genetic Counseling

The purpose of a comprehensive cancer genetic risk assessment is to determine if a person and their family members are at an increased lifetime risk for cancer. A patient may benefit from talking with a genetic counselor if:

- The patient or a relative has been diagnosed with cancer under the age of 50
- Several members of the patient's family have had cancer
- The patient or a close relative has had more than one type of cancer
- The patient or a close relative has had a rare type of cancer

A family history of cancer does not necessarily indicate a genetic cause and may simply be due to chance or a common environment. A genetic counselor can help determine the level of increased risk.

What To Expect from Testing

Cancer risk assessment and genetic counseling includes pre-test and post-test counseling.

- Pre-Test Counseling – This step includes the collection of relevant information needed to assess a patient's personal and family medical history. It also includes performing a patient risk assessment. The counselor will provide information about the suspected hereditary cancer syndrome at this time if appropriate.
- Testing – Genetic testing for a cancer predisposition can be a cheek swab or a blood test. A test can also be conducted on a tumor sample. There are a number of genetic tests for various types of cancers. It is important that the "right" gene or genes are selected for testing to assure the best chance of demonstrating an inherited link to a cancer history. For some families, the best option is a research study that can be coordinated with the family.
- Post-Test Counseling – This step includes disclosure of test results, and a discussion of the medical management options and available resources. A copy of the test results are forwarded to the patient's healthcare provider.

