Assessing your risk
As part of University of Minnesota Health Cancer Care, the Cancer Risk Management Program is designed to help patients evaluate their risk of developing cancer and work with them to manage their cancer risk.

Experts in our program include nursing specialists, genetic counselors, and cancer physicians. These providers conduct individualized cancer risk assessments and work together to design personalized cancer screening and prevention plans for patients and their families.

Who benefits from the program?
The program is designed for patients with an increased risk of cancer for personal or family history reasons. Family history concerns include early onset cancers or multiple cancers in the family. Patients with certain health conditions that increase the risk of cancer, such as ulcerative colitis, may also benefit from further assessment and more frequent or additional cancer screening.

Preparing for the appointment
Patients are asked to gather, as much as possible, the following information prior to their appointment:

- Medical records from their previous cancer diagnosis or relevant health condition
- Medical records documenting previous cancer screening (mammograms, colonoscopies, etc.)
- Copies of any previous genetic testing
- Information about their family history of cancer including type of cancer and age when relatives were diagnosed

Consider our program if you or your patient have a personal or family history of the following:

Breast and Ovarian
- Breast cancer before age 50
- Multiple close relatives with breast cancer
- Triple negative breast cancer, any age
- Male breast cancer
- Ovarian cancer, any age
- Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry and breast, pancreatic, ovarian cancer or prostate cancer with a Gleason score of 7+ at any age

Colon and Endometrial
- Colon or rectal cancer before age 50
- Endometrial cancer before age 50
- 20+ adenomatous polyps over lifetime
- Multiple close relatives with colon or endometrial cancer

Other Rare Cancer Diagnosis (immediate family)
- Two or more melanomas
- Two or more pancreatic cancers
- Two or more sarcomas or brain tumors
- Medullary thyroid cancer, pheochromocytoma, adrenal or kidney cancer
- Retinoblastoma

Personal Histories
- Lobular carcinoma in situ
- Atypical ductal hyperplasia
- Ulcerative colitis
- Other cancer risk factors, such as radiation exposure
What to expect
Depending on the reason for referral, patients will have their first appointment either with our genetic counselor, the clinical nurse specialist, or with both providers.

Genetic counseling involves:
- Obtaining family cancer history
- Discussing how cancer is inherited in families
- Reviewing available genetic testing options
- Discussing implications of genetic testing for patients and their relatives
- Making appropriate cancer screening recommendations

Meeting with a clinical nurse specialist involves:
- A limited physical exam
- Discussion of cancer prevention
- Developing an individualized plan for cancer screening and surveillance
- Ongoing cancer risk management

Scheduling
To schedule an appointment with our Cancer Risk Management Program, please call toll-free, 855-486-7226. For patients age 21 or younger, call 612-365-8100.

Referring providers in the University of Minnesota Health or Fairview systems may also make referrals through EPIC by ordering “Cancer Risk Mgmt/Cancer Genetic Counseling.”

Cancer Risk Management Program Providers

Visit mhealth.org/cancerrisk for more information.