

## What is hereditary cancer?

- It is cancer caused by problems in genes that may be passed down (inherited) in a family.
- Most families do **not** have hereditary cancer.

## What is hereditary cancer genetic testing?

- It is a blood test that looks for problems in genes related to hereditary cancer.

## How do I get this test done?

- Take the requisition to any blood lab where you go for blood tests.
- You do not need to fast.
- You can have this blood drawn at the same time as other bloodwork.

## What are the possible results of this test?

- Positive result – there is a problem in one or more genes.
- Negative result – there are no problems in any of the tested genes.
- Uncertain result – there is a difference in one or more genes, but we do not know if it makes the gene stop working.

## When and how will I get the genetic test result?

- Your result should be ready in about 8-10 weeks.
- Your cancer care team will share your result with you.
- Results are also available on AccessMyHealth and Health Gateway portals.
- Depending on your result, you may also have an appointment with a genetic counsellor.

## How can this test help me? The test result may:

- Help plan your cancer treatment.
- Give information about your risk to have a new cancer.
- Help guide your cancer screening or prevention options.

## How can this test help my family members? The test result may:

- Give information about whether they have a higher risk of getting cancer.
- Help guide their cancer screening or prevention options.

## Will genetic testing affect my insurance?

- Canada passed a law in May 2017 called the Genetic Non-Discrimination Act.
- Under this law, an insurer or employer cannot ask for genetic test results or ask you to have genetic testing. It is possible that there could be changes to this law in the future.

## What else should I know about this test?

- Not every person who has a problem in a gene will develop a cancer.
- Genetic test results can increase or decrease feelings of anxiety or worry.
- Genetic testing is optional and not everyone wants to have it.

## Where can I get more information?

- You can visit the Hereditary Cancer Program website: [bccancer.bc.ca/hereditary](http://bccancer.bc.ca/hereditary)
- You can watch this short video on hereditary cancer genetic testing:

