



*Personalized
Care For Your
Genetic Health*

Family History **Glossary Terms**

Birth Defect:

Birth defect: a physical difference that is present at or before birth.

CGC (Certified Genetic Counselor):

CGC (Certified Genetic Counselor): a credential held by genetic counselors in the United States that is received after passing an examination that demonstrates their skills and knowledge as a healthcare professional.

Familial:

Familial: a condition where there is a strong family history, but there is not an identified genetic cause.

Family History:

Family history: Information about health and medical issues in relatives. Family history is one of the most important tools a genetic counselor uses to identify genetic risk. Patterns of specific health issues in an individual's family history are useful to determine the risk of disease and appropriate genetic testing options.

Genetic Counselor:

Genetic Counselor: a healthcare professional who has training in genetics and counseling who works alongside doctors, nurses, or other members of your healthcare team. Genetic counselors assess your medical history and family history to determine if you are at risk for a genetic or hereditary condition and discuss the implications of available genetic testing options.

Hereditary/Inherited:

Hereditary/Inherited: a condition or disease that can be passed down from one generation to the next.

Inherited conditions are determined by genetic factors.

Pedigree:

Pedigree: a family tree using established symbols. Genetic counselors use pedigrees to review the family history and look for patterns that might suggest a risk for genetic disorders or health-related conditions in the family.