



*Personalized  
Care For Your  
Genetic Health*

## **Genetic Counseling** Glossary Terms

## **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.

## **DNA Testing:**

DNA testing: a form of genetic test that specifically analyzes DNA. This type of testing may be used to identify DNA changes that can cause disease, or it may be done to learn other genetic information about an individual, such as paternity or ancestry.

## **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.

## Genetic Risk:

Genetic risk: the contribution our genes play in the chance that we will develop a certain illness or condition.

## Genetic Testing:

Genetic testing: analyzing a person's genetic material (i.e. chromosomes or genes) in order to identify changes which could lead to genetic disease or predisposition to disease.

## Informed Consent:

Informed consent: the process of learning key details about a medical treatment (such as a drug, surgery or test) to be able to decide whether or not to have the treatment or test.

## 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.