Genetic Medicine & Primary Care

7 Key Roles of the Primary Care Provider

Evaluate through Screening and Surveillance
Use family health history for primary prevention of chronic illness and to identify a patient’s need for increased surveillance.

Educate Patients and Their Families
Discuss the importance of screening, early diagnosis, and how genetic tendencies may be present with an acute manifestation of disease.

Explain the Results
Review and discuss the meaning of screening, test results, and what to expect from genetic consultation and referral.

Make Appropriate Referrals
Provide information based on clinical history and ensure adequate follow-up for patients.

Coordinate Care with a Subspecialist
Initiate a co-management plan, including treatment and diagnostic testing when appropriate.

Counsel Patients and Families
Help them understand and adapt to the implications of a genetic diagnosis.

Provide Long-Term Follow-Up and Care
Continue to support patients and families and provide primary care through an ongoing relationship within the medical home.

Why Incorporate Genetics into Your Practice?

More than 50% of the population is at increased risk of diabetes, cancer, or heart disease because they have close relatives with 1 or more of these diseases.

>1,700 Genetic Tests Available

71% of pediatric inpatients have a genetic or genetically related condition.*

4M Babies born annually in the U.S. receive newborn screening, the most common genetic test.

Genomics plays a role in 9 of the 10 leading causes of death.


Physician Geneticists
1,400
Approximately 1 per 616,000 individuals in the U.S. (ACMG)

Genetic Counselors
3,000
Approximately 1 per 105,000 individuals in the U.S.

Overall, U.S. adults have positive attitudes
75% of adults surveyed agree that genetic testing helps doctors diagnose preventable conditions and offers more personalized treatment options.

Screening interventions could potentially reduce the risk of colorectal cancer among patients with Lynch syndrome by 60%.

Reduce risk by 60%

*http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1181899/