

### WHAT IS GENETIC TESTING?

Genetic testing is a medical test that looks at our DNA to see if there are changes or **mutations** in genes that may cause health problems.

### WHAT IS HEREDITARY CANCER GENETIC TESTING?

Hereditary cancer genetic testing looks for mutations in **specific genes** in the DNA that are currently known to increase the risk for cancer and may be passed down, or inherited, in a family.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF A MUTATION IS INHERITED?

An inherited mutation is **passed down** in a family from parent to child. If you are found to have a mutation, then there is a chance that some of your family members may also have the same mutation.

### WHO SHOULD HAVE THIS TESTING DONE?

This testing is recommended when your personal or family history is reviewed and there is an increased risk for an inherited cancer mutation in your family.

### WHAT KIND OF RESULT CAN I EXPECT?

There are three possible results from cancer genetic testing:

- 1. Positive result** - A mutation was found in a gene that is associated with an increased risk for certain cancers
- 2. Negative result** - A gene mutation was not found in the genes that were tested
- 3. Variant of uncertain significance (VUS for short)** - A mutation or change was found, but we do not know for certain if the risk for cancer is increased

### WILL I GET CANCER IF I HAVE A POSITIVE RESULT?

Having a positive result or a mutation in a gene does not mean that you will develop cancer or even get cancer again. It means that the risk to develop certain cancers is increased as compared to someone who does not have a mutation. It may also explain why a person had cancer in the first place.

### WHY WOULD I BOTHER TO HAVE THIS TESTING?

If you are found to have a positive test result, it means that your risk is increased to develop cancer in the future. Your health care provider can guide you with the steps that can both **lower your risk** and **find cancer earlier** through preventive care and screening. Sharing this information with your family members, like your children and siblings, will help them make decisions about testing and their own health care.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A NEGATIVE RESULT?

A negative test result does not mean that you will never get cancer, it just means there were no mutations seen in the 30 genes that were tested.

### HOW IS THE TESTING DONE?

This testing can be done from the comfort of your home. After your doctor approves a test requisition form, we will send you a test kit in the mail with prepaid return postage. The test kit has instructions and a tube to collect a sample of your saliva. The saliva contains your cells and DNA.

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET RESULTS?

The test results take approximately 4 weeks to be completed. A copy of the report is sent to both you and your doctor. Genetic counseling is also available to you free of charge if you have a positive or VUS result.

### WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more visit our web site:

[www.scionlabservices.com/genetic-testing.htm](http://www.scionlabservices.com/genetic-testing.htm)

