

Healthlink: Information for GPs or consultants referring patients to the Department of Clinical Genetics (DCG), Children’s Health Ireland (CHI), at Crumlin, D12 N512

<p>General points to aid referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We accept referrals of adults and children • Include patient’s mobile number • When referring a couple or more than one family member together, include names and dobs of each individual • If family member previously attended DCG include Genetic Family reference number (often a 5-digit number, PEDxxxxx) • Enclose copy of genetic test(s) as appropriate • Enclose copy of post mortem results as appropriate
<p>REFERRAL REASON</p>	<p>INFORMATION REQUIRED</p>
<p>Referring a pregnant patient for prenatal advice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do NOT send the referral via Healthlink • Email the referral as an attachment to prenatal.GC@olchc.ie • Prenatal referrals must be marked URGENT • Any problems with above, contact DCG at 01 409 6739 or the Consultant Clinical Geneticist on-call via switchboard 01 409 6100 • Always include the patient’s LMP
<p>Referral for <i>predictive</i> genetic testing (general and cancer) (Referring an unaffected individual with a genetically confirmed condition in a family member)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include our family reference/pedigree number • If family member seen elsewhere enclose copy of their genetic result or details (name/dob/genetic centre attended) so that report can be obtained. We cannot offer predictive testing without a copy of the genetic result • State the relationship between your patient and the affected family member with the genetically confirmed condition
<p>Referral for <i>diagnostic</i> genetic testing (general)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly describe the phenotype • List any previous diagnoses • Enclose copies of any genetic tests and other relevant tests • Outline the family history
<p>Referring a child with developmental delay or autism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refer to a paediatrician in the first instance for basic genetic investigations. • The paediatrician will refer on to genetics if necessary
<p>Referral for <i>diagnostic</i> genetic testing (cancer)</p> <p>Further information link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State the age at diagnosis of any cancer • Outline the family history of cancer stating the relative’s age at cancer diagnosis, type of cancer, whether alive or dead and relationship (including side of family) to your patient • a family history questionnaire (FHQ) completed by the patient, may be enclosed with the referral, which is available at: https://www.olchc.ie/Services/Departments-A-Z/Department-of-Clinical-Genetics/Information-Leaflets-Forms/Genetics-Family-History-Cancer-Questionnaire.pdf
<p>Referral of <i>unaffected</i> patient concerned about risk of cancer due to family history</p> <p>Further information link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the family history of cancer stating the relatives ages at cancer diagnosis, type of cancer, whether alive or dead and relationship (including side of family) to your patient • Please note: only 5-10% of cancers are genetic (early age of onset, multiple cancers in an individual, same cancer in family, cancers associated with a cancer syndrome, unusual/rare cancers or cancers coming down the generations may suggest a genetic cause) • There needs to be a living affected family member to initiate testing in (provided testing criteria are met when we assess the family history)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We may not be able to offer genetic testing but may offer surveillance advice. • FHQ completed by the patient may be enclosed with the referral, see link above. We do not accept FHQ without a referral attached.
Referring a patient for advice regarding a genetic test result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals will be rejected if a copy of the genetic test report is not attached
Carrier testing for Cystic Fibrosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is done directly by GPs. • If you wish to arrange carrier testing for Cystic fibrosis for your patient, further information can be found here: https://www.olchc.ie/Services/Departments-A-Z/Department-of-Clinical-Genetics/Information-Leaflets-Forms/Cystic-Fibrosis-Genetic-Testing-Questionnaire.pdf
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Diagnostic or carrier testing for Haemochromatosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do not accept referrals for haemochromatosis. • Hemochromatosis is a very common disorder in Ireland and only a small percentage of individuals who carry specific variants in both copies of the gene develop the disease. • Further information can be found in our handbook in lieu of appointment. Please see link Rare Disease Handbook FINAL WEB.pdf (ucd.ie)
Diagnostic and carrier testing for haematological conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refer to a haematologist, not a geneticist, particularly for common haematological conditions e.g. sickle cell disease, thalassaemia.
Referring a patient for advice regarding Direct To Consumer (DTC) testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do not recommend that the public organise DTC testing for diagnostic purposes but recognise that this increasingly occurs • Advice should be sought from the genetic counsellors employed by the DTC company • Patients can be referred when common genetic conditions are identified (e.g. cystic fibrosis or a known cancer predisposition gene). • Your patient should be aware that we may need to repeat testing in a clinically accredited laboratory following appropriate counselling • Most other DCT results have limited clinical utility and we are likely to reject the referral and let you know why. We will be unable to accept referrals for carriers of very rare conditions. • BEWARE the patient with a strong personal or family history suggestive of a genetic condition who claims to have a 'normal' DTC test result, such patients may warrant genetics referral

If you have queries concerning any of the above or a question not covered here please telephone 01 409 6739 or email clinical.genetics@olchc.ie Do not use this email for referrals