

Cancer Genomics Best Practices for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer and Lynch Syndromes

A Healthy People 2020 Action Project

Background

Evidence-based recommendations have been developed by the US Preventive Services Task Force for *Genetic Risk Assessment and BRCA Mutation Testing for Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility*. Recommendations also have been produced by the EGAPP (Evaluation of Genomic Applications in Practice and Prevention) Working Group on *Genetic Testing Strategies in Newly Diagnosed Individuals with Colorectal Cancer Aimed at Reducing Morbidity and Mortality from Lynch Syndrome in Relatives*.

The DPH Genomics Office is working to raise awareness of these recommendations to increase “appropriate” use of cancer genomic services. The Genomics Office is collaborating with the Connecticut Tumor Registry, the DPH Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Colorectal Cancer Programs, and hospital-based tumor registrars and genetic counselors to promote awareness.

The Genomics Office has begun to disseminate materials to targeted practitioners in Connecticut. The materials include:

- Reports containing data on potential cases of HBOC syndrome and Lynch syndrome at their hospital and statewide
- USPSTF and EGAPP guidelines
- Patient information handouts
- Directory of cancer genetic counselors

Healthcare providers at each hospital also are being offered the services of a certified genetic counselor for a training session on the evidence-based recommendations for cancer risk assessment and appropriate use of genetic counseling services and genetic tests. One of these trainings will be recorded and made available to the public online through TRAINConnecticut.

A broader group of physicians and surgeons in Connecticut, including specialists in obstetrics/gynecology, breast cancer surgery, and colorectal cancer surgery, will also receive the educational materials and best practice recommendations with a request for

feedback. Project directors at 14 sites across Connecticut where free or low-cost screenings for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers are provided will also receive the information packets. These doctors are considered the most likely to diagnose cancer and identify individuals with family histories of cancer who might benefit from genetic counseling.

Connecticut's Healthy People 2020 Action Project is expected to help health care providers improve their referral practices and patient care and, ultimately, lead to better health outcomes.