How do I make an appointment?

Anyone can make an appointment to see a genetic counselor. Please call one of the counseling centers at:

Fairview-University Medical Center, Minneapolis:
University campus: 612-626-9658
Riverside campus: 612-273-2223

Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina:
952-924-5250

Fairview Ridges Hospital, Burnsville:
952-892-2270

If there is a question about the appropriate clinic for a specific genetic concern, please ask to speak with a genetic counselor.

For insurance questions, please contact your insurance company in advance of the appointment.
What is Genetic Counseling?
Genetic counseling is a specialized service available to patients and families seen at Fairview clinics and hospitals. Genetic counselors have specific training in human and medical genetics as well as psychosocial counseling. Their expertise helps with the individual questions and concerns of our patients and families. The genetic counselors are certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

Who can benefit?
Genetic counselors provide essential information to people who have concerns about genetic disorders, for instance:

- Families with a history of a known genetic condition
- Families with a history of cancer
- Women who are 35 years or older and are pregnant or planning a pregnancy
- Women with an abnormal ultrasound finding during pregnancy
- Pregnant women with an abnormal blood/serum screen
- Pregnant women exposed to medications, infections or chemicals
- Families with multiple pregnancy losses or infant deaths
- Families of ethnic backgrounds susceptible to specific genetic conditions
- People who want to know if a condition in their family is genetic

What happens at a genetic counseling appointment?
A genetic counselor will:

- Take a family history by asking about relatives
- Review health and pregnancy history
- Discuss the chance that a genetic condition will occur in the family
- Discuss medical issues associated with the genetic diseases
- Discuss possible genetic testing options
- Provide education about current related research
- Provide support group information and referrals
- Provide support in making decisions and coping with genetic conditions
- Assist with referrals to health care providers

A genetic counseling appointment takes about one hour. After your appointment, the genetic counselor will send you a summary of the discussion. Families may use this information to share with relatives and other health professionals.

Genetic counseling services are available at these Fairview locations:

Fairview Ridges Hospital
- Hospital consults
- Maternal-Fetal Medicine Center
- Other specialty clinics

Fairview Southdale Hospital
- Hospital consults
- Maternal-Fetal Medicine Center
- Other specialty clinics

Fairview University Medical Center
- Maternal-Fetal Medicine Center
- Genetics Clinic
- Pediatric Clinic
- Cystic Fibrosis Clinic
- Cardiovascular Clinic
- Down Syndrome Clinic
- Hematology Clinic
- Neurology Clinic
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Oncology Clinic
- Ophthalmology Clinic
- Hospital consults
- Other specialty clinics