

# DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

**Division: WEST FLORIDA**

**Classification: GENETIC COUNSELOR (IN-FACILITY AND TELEHEALTH)**

**Applicant Name:**

**Genetic Counselor**

The Genetic Counselors must have equivalent qualifications, competence and function in the same role as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility, as defined by facility job description.

**Definition of Care or Service:**

Genetic counseling is the process of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease. This process integrates:

- Interpretation of family and medical histories to assess the change of disease occurrence or recurrence
- Education about inheritance, testing, management, prevention, resources and research
- Counseling to promote informed choices and adaptation to the risk or condition

Genetic counselors work as members of a healthcare team, providing risk assessment, education and support to individuals and families at risk for, or diagnosed with, a variety of inherited conditions. Genetic counselors also interpret genetic testing, provide supportive counseling, and serve as patient advocates.

Genetic Counselors may support many areas of medicine including:

- ART/Infertility Genetics
- Cancer Genetics
- Cardiovascular Genetics
- Cystic Fibrosis Genetics
- Fetal Intervention and Therapy Genetics
- Hematology Genetics
- Metabolic Genetics
- Neurogenetics
- Pediatric Genetics
- Personalized Medicine Genetics
- Prenatal Genetics
- Telehealth Genetic Services

Scope of Practice for Genetic Counselor may include:

- Obtain and evaluate individual, family, and medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic/medical conditions and diseases in a patient, his/her offspring, and other family members;
- Discuss the features, natural history, means of diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors, and management of risk for genetic/medical conditions and diseases;
- Identify and coordinate genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as appropriate for the genetic assessment;
- Integrate genetic laboratory test results and other diagnostic studies with personal and family medical history to assess and communicate risk factors for genetic/medical conditions and diseases;
- Explain the clinical implications of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their results;
- Evaluate the client's or family's responses to the condition or risk of recurrence and provide client-centered counseling and anticipatory guidance;
- Identify and utilize community resources that provide medical, educational, financial, and psychosocial support and advocacy; and
- Provide written documentation of medical, genetic, and counseling information for families and health

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care professionals
<p><b>Setting(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare facilities including but not limited to hospitals</li> <li>Patient care areas, all settings</li> <li>Telehealth through HIPAA compliant platform</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supervision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct supervision by the oncology service line leader (may be hospital or market level) or department director</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluator:</b> Department director and/or Oncology Service Line Leader (may be hospital or market level)</p> <p><b>Tier Level:</b> 2</p> <p><b>eSAF Access Required:</b> YES</p>
<p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master’s degree in Genetic Counseling</li> <li>Genetic counseling training program</li> <li>License in state of practice when required (see state requirements)</li> </ul> <p><b>Preferred Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board certification through the ABGC or ACMG is voluntary, but is preferred</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Where education may not be defined in qualifications area of the Scope, HCA Healthcare requires the highest level of education completed (not training or courses) confirmed on your background check.</p>
<p><b>State Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of Florida currently does not require a license</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Competencies:</b></p> <p>The Genetic Counselor will demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep and broad knowledge of genetics</li> <li>Ability to tailor, translate, and communicate complex information in a simple, relevant way for a broad range of audiences</li> <li>Strong interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, and self-awareness</li> <li>Ability to dissect and analyze a complex problem</li> <li>Research skills (self-education)</li> <li>In-depth knowledge of healthcare delivery</li> <li>Assess patients' psychological or emotional needs such as those relating to stress, fear of test results, financial issues, and marital conflicts to make referral recommendations or assist patients in managing test outcomes.</li> <li>Collect for or share with research projects patient data related to specific genetic disorders or syndromes.</li> <li>Design and conduct genetics training programs for physicians, graduate students, other health professions or the general community.</li> <li>Discuss testing options and the associated risks, benefits and limitations with patients and families to assist them in making informed decisions.</li> <li>Engage in research activities related to the field of medical genetics or genetic counseling.</li> <li>Interpret laboratory results and communicate findings to patients or physicians.</li> <li>Interview patients or review medical records to obtain comprehensive patient or family medical histories, and document findings.</li> <li>Prepare or provide genetics-related educational materials to patients or medical personnel.</li> <li>Provide counseling to patient and family members by providing information, education, or</li> </ul>

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reassurance.

- Provide genetic counseling in specified areas of clinical genetics such as obstetrics, pediatrics, and oncology.
- Provide patients with information about the inheritance of conditions such as breast, ovarian, prostate and colon cancer; cardiovascular disease; Alzheimer's disease; and diabetes.
- Read current literature, talk with colleagues, or participate in professional organizations or conferences to keep abreast of developments in genetics.
- Refer patients to specialists or community resources.
- Write detailed consultation reports to provide information on complex genetic concepts to patients and referring physicians.
- Analyze genetic information to identify patients or families at risk for specific disorders or syndromes.
- Determine or coordinate treatment plans by requesting laboratory services, reviewing genetics or counseling literature, and considering histories or diagnostic data.
- Explain diagnostic procedures such as chorionic villus sampling (CVS), ultrasound, fetal blood sampling, and amniocentesis.
- Evaluate or make recommendations for standards of care or clinical operations, ensuring compliance with applicable regulations, ethics, legislation, or policies.
- Practices consistent hand hygiene
- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) when required
  - Required immunizations per Division requirements regardless if role is in-house or telehealth
  - Complies with Isolation precautions
  - Maintains sterile field

### References:

National Society of Genetic Counselors, About Genetic Counselors. Retrieved from

<http://nsgc.org/p/cm/ld/fid=46>

American Board of Genetic Counseling, <http://www.abgc.net/ABGC/AmericanBoardofGeneticCounselors.asp>

### Document Control:

- Created 8/7/2018
- Content updates 8/14/2020
- Content update to include Telehealth 5/20/2021

**Your signature confirms you will be able to comply with the Qualifications and Competencies listed within this Scope of Service and that you will confirm education via your background check.**

**Applicant Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_