



# Genetic Testing for Breast and Ovarian Cancer...

It's not just a simple blood test.

Concerned about your personal or family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer?  
Thinking about genetic testing?

A cancer genetics professional can help answer questions about whether genetic testing may be right for you.



**Important things to understand about hereditary breast/ovarian cancer and genetic testing:**

- Not everyone needs genetic testing. Only about 5 to 10 percent of all breast and ovarian cancers are caused by changes in genes, such as *BRCA1* or *BRCA2*.
- Genetic testing is most helpful when there is a strong family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer, including one or more of the following:
  - » Several affected relatives
  - » Breast cancers at a young age (under 50)
  - » A person with cancer of both breasts, or both breast and ovarian cancer
  - » A male relative with breast cancer
  - » Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer
- Genetic testing will not find all causes of hereditary breast or ovarian cancer.
- People without changes in genes, such as *BRCA1* or *2*, can still develop cancer.
- Health insurance often, but not always, covers the cost of genetic counseling and testing.

**For more information on family health History, breast and ovarian cancer, genetic Counseling and genetic testing visit:**

- > [www.cdc.gov/genomics/resources/diseases/](http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/resources/diseases/)
- > [www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/BRCA/](http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/BRCA/)

**To locate a cancer genetics professional or clinic in your area visit:**

- > [www.cancer.gov/search/geneticsservices/](http://www.cancer.gov/search/geneticsservices/)
- > [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/GeneTests/clinic](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/GeneTests/clinic)

**or call toll free: 1-800-CDC-INFO**

**In Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Public Health Women's Health Line toll free at 1-888-522-1282.**

This flyer was created through a collaborative effort between the Illinois Department of Public Health and genetic professionals in the state of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio.

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