

# The Breast Center



Charleston Area  
Medical Center

## Genetic testing for hereditary cancer now available

The Breast Center at CAMC is excited to offer a new cancer risk assessment through our CARE Program. Using a personal/family cancer history survey, we can identify patients who qualify for genetic testing and help them begin the process. Prior to your appointment, you will receive an email/text from Ambry Genetics that contains a link to a digital risk assessment questionnaire. Our friendly staff will discuss your results with you at your visit and you will have the option to proceed with testing if you qualify. The test is done through a blood draw, which can be combined with any other labs you are having completed at your visit.

Below are some frequently asked questions with answers regarding hereditary cancer genetic testing:

### **Does my insurance cover the test?**

If you meet national guidelines for testing, your insurance should cover the test.

### **How much is this going to cost?**

Most patients don't pay anything. If your out-of-pocket cost is expected to be over \$100, the lab will call you to review payment options and give you the chance to apply for financial aid or cancel. At most, patients will need to self-pay \$249.

## I've already had genetic testing. Should I do this too?

Genetic testing technology and the number of genes they test for has changed quite a bit over the years. If you were tested more than four years ago, we recommend this updated test for you.

## What does the test look for?

The test includes 36 genes that are associated with eight types of cancer. The test looks for changes in these genes that may give you and your family an increased risk of cancer. This is not a test to see if you **have** cancer – only to see if you were born with an increased risk to develop cancer in your life.

## What do the results mean for my family?

If your results are positive, this means you have a hereditary cancer condition. Each of your children and siblings have a 50% chance to have inherited this as well. The lab offers **FREE** testing for any blood relative within 90 days of getting your results back, which can be ordered by your family members' physician.

## What are the benefits of testing?

- If you currently have cancer, this test may help give a reason as to why you developed the cancer.
- You can find out if you have higher risk than the average population of developing certain cancers.
- If you are at increased risk, there are recommendations of how to manage those risks or to reduce your risk, such as more frequent screenings, preventative surgeries and, in some cases, possible targeted therapy.
- You can help your family determine their cancer risks.