

# Cancer Family History Form

## West Midlands Clinical Genetics Service

For **non-cancer related** referrals please download the non-cancer family history form at <https://bwc.nhs.uk/information-for-professionals-genetics> and email this copy to [genetics.info@nhs.net](mailto:genetics.info@nhs.net).

**① Important: please read the following information before completing this form**

### **Why have I been given a family history form?**

You have been given this form because of concerns about the **cancers** that have occurred in your family. In most families, cancers will have occurred by chance, and the risk to other people in the family is no different to that of the general population. Only a small proportion of cancers (less than 10%) are due to an inherited predisposition. Before we try and answer your questions about the risks of cancers in your family and whether extra screening is beneficial for you, it is important to try and collect as much information as possible about your family history. This information will be confidential and will only be used to assess your risk and inform relevant medical professionals of screening requirements.

### **How much information do I need to give?**

Please try to give as much information as possible. If you are unable to complete all sections, please just return the form giving as much information as you can, including approximate dates. We ask when and where people were treated as this can help us confirm key details. Please still include details for family members who have not had cancer as this can still provide helpful information. We won't contact any of your relatives without your permission but we may need this information to provide accurate recommendations.

### **What if I'm adopted or not in contact with my family?**

We appreciate that not everyone can access information about their family history. If you cannot trace certain family information, please note this on the form and return it to us. We will still be happy to see you and will work with you to try and gather any essential information.

### **Why have I been asked about relatives and family structure?**

It is important that we know about biological relatives and how you are linked to each other to make an accurate assessment. We also appreciate that families come in all shapes and sizes and are not defined just by biology. Please let us know if there is any additional information such as donor conception (egg/sperm/embryo donation), adoption, or half-siblings and stepfamily. If you do not know some of your family history, please note this.

### **Why are you asking me about gender and sex assigned at birth?**

For many individuals, their gender will be the same as their sex assigned at birth. We will always respect your identity and appreciate that gender is about much more than our anatomy. It is helpful to know this information, as some genetic conditions have different effects depending on a variety of typical sex-related differences, such as hormones or chromosomes. All the information will be held in strict confidence and you are welcome to call and speak to a member of our team if there is anything you would like to discuss.

### **What happens when you receive my form?**

Once we receive your form, we will look at the information you have given to assess whether the risk of cancer in your family is increased. We may need to get some more specific details about the cancers in your family from medical records. We can sometimes access this automatically for relatives who are deceased but we need consent from living relatives to look at their information, as mentioned above. If we cannot do this we will still proceed but our advice may be less accurate. Once we have obtained all the information we need, we will be able to advise you about further screening and/or genetic investigations which may be available to you or your relatives. If your risk is no different to the general population, we will write to you to reassure you that extra screening is not likely to be beneficial for you. We may offer you an appointment to discuss this further with one of our genetics doctors or genetic counsellors. We endeavour to contact you within 18 weeks of receiving this form. It would help us greatly if any consent forms we send to you or your relatives are returned promptly.