**FHQS Cancer Family Screening Questions:  
*Patient Unaffected by Cancer***

**20210518**

Cancer is a common condition which will affect up to 1 in 2 people in their lifetime. Most cancers happen when a person gets older. For most cancers, genetic factors (factors which can run through a family) do **not** play a part in the cancer developing. However, in some families, genetic factors may have played a part in increasing the chance of a person getting cancer. Although genetic cancer is less common, if cancer is due to genetic factors this may help us decide on the best treatment for a cancer, or help us to give advice to relatives about their chance of developing cancer and how to lower this.

To look into this further, we can look at your personal and family history of cancer.

If you answer “yes” to any of the questions below, we will invite you to complete a full family history assessment. This does not mean that your personal or family history of cancer is due to genetic factors, but it would be helpful to ask you for more information about you and your family to look into this.

If you answer “no” to all the questions below, it would be unlikely your personal or family history of cancer is due to genetic factors. You can still talk with your GP if you have any concerns.

If your personal or family history changes, please let your GP know, as this could change the advice we give you and your relatives.

If you are uncertain about any of these questions please look at the “Frequently Asked Questions” section below. This will explain what we mean by cancer, having more than one cancer, what related cancers are and who counts as first and second degree relatives.

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| --- | --- |
|  | **Circle Yes or No** |
| 1. Do you have a first degree relative who developed breast cancer under the age of 40 or a triple negative breast cancer under the age of 60? | Yes No |
| 1. Do you have a first degree relative who developed cancer (not breast) under the age of 50? | Yes No |
| 1. Do you have a first degree relative who has had two separate cancer diagnoses? | Yes No |
| 1. Have two or more first or second degree relatives on the same side of your of your family had the same or related cancers? | Yes No |
| 1. Do you have 3 or more relatives on the same side of the family who have had the same or related cancers? | Yes No |

**What is cancer?**

Cancer is caused by cells which divide out of control. [Cancer Research UK have further information about cancer.](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/what-is-cancer) If you are uncertain if you or a relative have had cancer you should check this before answering these questions. Tumours are growths within the body – these can be cancerous or non cancerous.

**What is triple negative breast cancer?**

[Triple negative breast cancer is an uncommon type of breast cancer](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/breast-cancer/stages-types-grades/types/triple-negative-breast-cancer) where the cancer cells do NOT express oestrogen, progesterone or Herceptin receptors. If you are uncertain if you or a relative had a triple negative breast cancer you should answer the questions as “no” to having triple negative breast cancer unless you can find out otherwise. This is because triple negative breast cancer is much less common than other types of breast cancer.

**What does it mean to have two or more cancer diagnoses in the same person?**

Cancer can spread to other parts of the body (known as “metastases”) and this does not mean that a person has had more than one cancer. Cancer can also come back (a recurrence) up to many years after the cancer was first diagnosed. The same cancer coming back does not mean that a person has had more than one cancer. When we ask about having two or more cancer diagnoses, we mean two or more *different* *and independent* primary cancer diagnoses. For example, having breast cancer AND bowel cancer, or having skin cancer AND prostate cancer.

**Who counts as first and second degree relatives in my family?**

Who counts as a first degree and second degree relative changes depending on the cancer type being considered. If we are trying to work out your risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer look at the relatives in the first row. For all other cancer types, look at the relatives in the second row.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | First degree relatives (FDR) | Second Degree relatives (SDR) |
| **In breast and ovarian cancer families** | Parents (mother and father)  Children (sons and daughters)  Full siblings (brothers and siblings)  Half siblings through your father  Paternal aunts and uncles (your father’s siblings)  Paternal grandparents (your father’s parents)  Nieces and nephews through any brothers | Half siblings through your mother  Maternal grandparents (your mother’s parents)  Maternal aunts and uncles (your mother’s siblings)  Paternal cousins (cousins on your father’s side)  Paternal grandparents siblings  Paternal great-grandparents  Nieces and nephews though any sisters |
| **In other cancer families** | Parents (mother and father)  Children (sons and daughters)  Full siblings (brothers and siblings) | Half siblings  Aunts and Uncles  Grandparents  Grandchildren  Nieces and nephews |

**What cancers count as related cancers?**

The following cancer types can be related through genetic changes, and can be counted together as related cancers:

* **Group 1)** Breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer
* **Group 2)** Bowel cancer, womb cancer, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, small bowel or stomach cancer.

This group can also contain rarer types of cancer, but you may not know details of these. If you are concerned one of these may apply in your case but are uncertain, please speak with your GP.

Glioblastoma (a type of brain tumour), certain types of skin tumours called “sebaceous adenomas or sebaceous carcinomas”, hepatobiliary cancers (but not primary liver cancer), urothelial kidney cancers, cancers of the ureters and bladder cancer, and prostate cancer under the age of 60

* **Group 3)** Melanoma and pancreatic cancer
* **Group 4)** Kidney cancer, phaeochromocyoma, paraganglioma, cerebellar or spinal haemangioblastoma, retinal angioma
* **Group 5)** Breast cancer, sarcoma, brain cancer, adrenocortical cancer

This list is not exhaustive and you should speak with your GP or healthcare team if you are worried or confused about related cancer types.