GENETIC TESTING FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY OVARIAN CANCER

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Around one in 70 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer during their lives. A small number of these women will have changes in their genetic make up that has affected their risk of getting cancer. Finding out if you are one of these women may help in making the best choices for your current and future treatments.

It is important for you to know that the test can also give you information about your risk of developing other cancers. The results might also provide information about your relatives' risk of developing cancer.

THE TEST

The test is carried out on a blood sample and looks for any changes in four different genes. These genes are called BRCA1, BRCA2, RAD51C and RAD51D.

People who have specific changes in these genes have in increased risk of cancer; in particular ovarian and breast cancer.

If you are found to have a change in one of these genes, there is a chance that other people in the family might have the same gene change.

People who carry these genetic changes have an increased risk of cancer. They may be eligible for extra screening to detect the early signs of cancer or may take other steps to reduce their risk.

THE RESULTS

There are three possible outcomes to the test:

1. **The test finds a significant change in one of the genes**

   This result may help in making decisions about your treatment and may also confirm that your risk of another cancer is increased.

   Because we share genes with our relatives, there is a chance that they may have an increased risk of cancer too. It would be possible for them to have a genetic test.

2. **The test does not find a significant change in these genes**

   This result means we have not identified an inherited genetic cause for your cancer.

3. **The test finds a change that is difficult to interpret**

   Sometimes the result of the genetic test is unclear and cannot be interpreted in a useful way. Further information about your family history or in some cases, additional tests, may help.

The clinician who has arranged the test for you will give you your result, usually at your next routine visit.

If your test finds a change in one of the genes, they will offer to refer you to the genetic clinic.

At the genetic clinic you will meet with a genetic clinician who will discuss your result with you and what it might mean for you and your relatives. There will be time to think about the best way forward for you and they can spend time answering any questions you might have.

It might be that you would like this appointment soon after your results or you may wish to wait a while. You can contact the genetic service directly or ask your hospital doctor or GP to refer you.

If any of your relatives would like to come along to the genetic clinic then they should request an appointment through their GP.

If you would like more information, please speak with your clinician.

Also you can phone the duty genetic counsellor direct, at the numbers on this leaflet, who will be happy to go through any questions you may have or arrange an appointment to see you.

If your genetic test does not find any genetic changes but you have a family history of cancer, it is still possible that your relatives may have an increased risk of developing cancer. If you think this applies to you, you could talk to your GP or hospital clinician.

Your local genetics services:

South East of Scotland Clinical Genetic Service:	MMC, Western General Hospital Crewe Road South, Edinburgh EH4 2XU Telephone: 0131 537 1116
North of Scotland Genetics Service:	Department of Clinical Genetics Ashgrove House, Foresterhill Aberdeen AB25 2AZ Telephone: 01224 552120
East of Scotland Genetics Service:	Human Genetics Unit Level 6, Ninewells Hospital Dundee DD1 9SY Telephone: 01382 632035
West of Scotland Genetics Service:	Level 2A Laboratory Medicine The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital 1345 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 4TF Telephone: 0141 354 9201