



Oregon ScreenWise Program

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How Do I Pay for Genetic Services?

Finding a way to receive genetic services is important to your health and wellness. To ensure that you can access these lifesaving treatments, ScreenWise has provided following list of coverage for genetics services (genetic counseling & genetic testing).

Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) Coverage of Genetic Services

The Oregon Health Evidence Review Commission has established Practice Guidelines for coverage of genetic counseling and genetic testing. There are general guidelines for non-prenatal genetic testing, as well as specific guidelines for hereditary cancer genetic services, among others.

The genetic testing Practice Guidelines apply to all Medicaid clients; clients should talk to their health care provider if they have questions about coverage of specific genetic services.

The guidelines are included in the Prioritized List of Health Services document posted on the Oregon Health Plan website. To get to the most recent version of the Prioritized List of Health Services, go to <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/herc/Pages/PrioritizedList.aspx>. Then click on the link to the prioritized list, under Name, this will initiate a download of the list.

The Affordable Care Act of 2010 & Coverage of Genetic Counseling & Testing

Insurance companies that fall under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are required to cover, at no cost, genetic counseling for women whose family history is associated with an increased risk for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. If, after genetic counseling, genetic testing is determined to be appropriate and desired, the insurance companies are required to cover, at no cost, BRCA genetic testing. This is in accordance to the United States Preventative Services Taskforce grade B recommendation that individuals whose family history is associated with an increased risk for harmful mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes be referred for genetic counseling and evaluation for BRCA testing.

- [USPSTF A and B Recommendations of Preventable Services relevant to the Affordable Care Act](#)

Financial Assistance for Uninsured and Underinsured Individuals

Financial assistance is available to help you cover the cost of genetic counseling and testing if you are uninsured or if you have an insurance plan that does not fall under the ACA. For example, these organizations offer financial support to qualified individuals:

- ScreenWise clients who are identified as high-risk for having hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome qualify for appropriate cancer genetic services; please check with ScreenWise for participating enrolling providers and cancer genetics clinics.
- Many testing companies offer financial help for uninsured patients and those with high deductible plans. Genetic counselors and other credentialed clinicians who offer genetic services are well qualified to identify free, cost sliding or cost capped opportunities.
- [Patient Advocate Foundation](#) provides information, resources and assistance to support health care access and solve insurance issues.