

# Why have I been referred to genetics clinic?

Your healthcare provider has recommended that you have a genetic evaluation because he or she is concerned that you or a member of your family may have a health problem that is caused by a genetic condition.

There are many reasons for patients to see a geneticist or genetic counselor. Some of the more common reasons include birth defects, developmental delay, autism, prenatal concerns, or having a known genetic condition in your family.

Geneticists also see patients with complex medical histories and uncommon combinations of physical features or other medical problems. Some genetic conditions have recognizable features that may suggest a diagnosis.



## What is a geneticist?

You will be seen by a genetics provider, either a physician or a physician assistant, who has special training in genetic disorders. These providers specialize in diagnosing, managing, and treating patients with genetic conditions. They often perform detailed physical examinations of patients to look for signs of a specific diagnosis. If a diagnosis is made, the genetics team will provide you with more information and discuss available treatments, healthcare recommendations, and the chance that other family members could also be impacted by the condition. They will also review genetic testing options.

Geneticists work closely with genetic counselors who are professionals experienced and skilled in genetic risk assessment, education, interpersonal communication, and counseling.

## What will happen during my appointment?

You can expect to spend some time discussing your medical history as well as details concerning your family's medical history. A physical exam will most likely be performed. Any important findings from the appointment will be discussed, and options for genetic testing will be explained. Topics such as the inheritance of the condition, treatments, and any other recommendations will be covered. You may also spend time with a genetic counselor during your appointment.

## Will I have genetic testing?

Any appropriate genetic testing will be explained in detail. Patients and families are provided with the information necessary to make an informed choice about whether or not to have testing. There are many different types of genetic tests available. Some of those tests are done in our laboratory in Greenwood, while others may be collected during your appointment and sent to other laboratories.



## How should I prepare for my appointment?

You will be asked questions regarding your medical history, prior medical testing, and family history. It would be helpful for you to review any information that you have about these topics before your visit. Talk with family members to find out if anyone has had health problems, learning problems or a genetic condition.

Please do not eat, drink, or chew gum for 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. This will make it easier to collect a saliva sample for testing if necessary.

New appointments will take time. You should plan to be at the clinic for an hour or sometimes longer.

## What should I bring with me?

- Important medical records or test results: You can bring these or have them sent to us by your healthcare providers.
- A complete list of your medications
- Names of your current physicians or other healthcare providers
- Family photos: These can be helpful to the geneticist in looking for patterns of physical features within the family.
- Your insurance or Medicaid cards: You should check with your insurance company to determine if our services are covered.



## How can I get more information?

The Greenwood Genetic Center provides genetic services throughout South Carolina. Contact the office nearest you for more information.

### Charleston

3520 West Montague Avenue, Suite 104  
North Charleston, SC 29418  
Phone: 843-746-1001 Toll free: 866-588-4363

### Columbia

1911 Thurmond Mall  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: 803-799-5390 Toll free: 800-679-5390

### Florence

Mailing address:  
PO Box 4033  
Florence, SC 29502

Physical address (by appointment only):  
MUSC Health Florence Medical Center  
805 Pamplico Highway, Suite B230  
Florence, SC 29505-6066  
Phone: 843-746-1001 Toll free: 866-588-4363

### Greenville

14 Edgewood Drive  
Greenville, SC 29605  
Phone: 864-250-7944 Toll free: 866-478-4363

### Greenwood

106 Gregor Mendel Circle  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 864-941-8100 Toll free: 888-442-4363

# Preparing for Your Genetic Visit



This brochure is published by the Greenwood Genetic Center, a nonprofit institute organized to provide clinical genetic services, diagnostic laboratory testing, educational programs and materials and research in the field of medical genetics.