

Fast Facts

SPECIAL EDITION

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News for Providers from HealthPartners Professional Services and Hospital Network Management

Administrative

23andMe is now testing for breast cancer risk

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Recently, 23andMe said it would start testing for the breast cancer-related genes, *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*. 23andMe is a company that offers at-home genetic tests for a number of conditions. The breast cancer risk results will be part of the overall health test offered by the company.

The breast cancer risk report is not the same test that a genetic counselor might order. It will only detect three very uncommon mutations out of **more than 1,000 other known BRCA gene mutations** that increase the risk of breast, ovarian and other types of cancer. The test also doesn't look at family history and other important risk factors. ***That's why referral to a genetic counselor is always the best approach.***

Genetic counselors are trained to help patients decide if a genetic test is right for them, and can select the best test based on the patient's family history of cancer. They'll also discuss the test results with the patient. And, genetic counselors are experts in billing and insurance coverage for genetic tests. This includes fulfilling coverage criteria for pre-test genetic counseling that is required by many payers.

Insurance will usually cover *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* and other cancer-risk gene tests if patients meet certain criteria. ***Patients should contact their health plan's Member Services department. They can help identify in-network genetic counselors.***

If you have questions regarding the content of this newsletter, please call your HealthPartners Service Specialist. If you don't have his/her phone number, please call **952-883-5589** or toll-free at **888-638-6648**.

This newsletter is available online at healthpartners.com/fastfacts.

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