

RiskPlus™

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - For Patients

What is RiskPlus™?

RiskPlus™ is the follow-up program to MammoPlus®. It offers in-depth genetic counseling and risk evaluation for women who are noted to be at increased risk of breast cancer on their MammoPlus® evaluation.

How can I access RiskPlus™?

Women who are identified as being at increased risk on their MammoPlus® risk evaluation can access RiskPlus™ through:

- **Physician referrals:** Physicians will be notified of their patients MammoPlus® risk assessment results and may choose to refer their patients to the RiskPlus™ program.
- **Self-referrals:** Women may contact our genetic counselor to initiate a RiskPlus™ evaluation.

What can I expect from my RiskPlus™ appointment?

You can expect to meet with a board certified genetic counselor and/or an advanced practice oncology nurse practitioner for detailed cancer risk evaluation. During the appointment, you will receive:

- Family and personal history evaluation
- Risk assessment
- Education
- Genetic testing if appropriate
- A customized cancer prevention plan

What can my referring physician expect?

Your referring physician will receive timely information regarding your appointments, genetic test results and personalized management plans. We will facilitate referral to specialists as instructed by your doctor.

Why choose RiskPlus™?

The main goal of the RiskPlus™ program is to determine your level of risk for developing breast cancer. RiskPlus™ also offers cancer genetic counseling and testing to identify women who carry an inherited cancer causing mutation. These women have a very high chance of developing breast and other associated cancers. Knowing your level of risk gives us the information needed to design a customized cancer prevention plan. This will offer you the greatest level of cancer prevention, early cancer detection and better treatment outcomes, should cancer ever develop.

What are the benefits of the RiskPlus™ program?

RiskPlus™ helps:

- Identify women who are at increased risk of breast cancer.
- Determine the most appropriate genetic testing strategy.
- Educate patients and empower them with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions regarding genetic testing and management.
- Facilitate genetic testing for the patient and their family members when necessary.
- Offer a customized cancer risk reduction plan for each patient.
- Refer patients to specialists as directed by the referring physician, thus allowing patients to follow-through with their management recommendations.

What about genetic discrimination?

There are federal and state laws in most states that protect the public from insurance discrimination based on genetic test results.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act, also referred to as “GINA”, prohibits insurers from cancelling, denying, or changing terms or premiums of coverage based on genetic information. It also prohibits employers from making hiring, firing, promotion and other employment-related decisions based on genetic factors. This protection however, does not include life or disability insurance.

The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulates the way health care providers and health insurers gather, maintain, and share protected health information. HIPAA prohibits group health plans from using any health status-related factor, including genetic information, as a basis for denying or limiting eligibility for coverage or for increasing premiums. HIPAA also states explicitly that genetic information in the absence of a current diagnosis of illness shall not be considered a pre-existing condition.

What is the cost of RiskPlus™?

The cost of RiskPlus™ depends on individual insurance plans.

How can I learn more about the RiskPlus Program?

For more information about the program, please call Preethi Premkumar, our certified genetic counselor at 248-858-6487.