

The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service is a pre-test genetic counselling service provided by Genetic Counselling Australia (GCA).

On 1st of November 2017, the MBS item 73296 was introduced to facilitate requesting of diagnostic genetic testing in patients with breast or ovarian cancer by treating specialists. Patients who are assessed as having a greater than 10% risk of identifying a pathogenic variant by their specialist qualify for this rebate. Genomic Diagnostics partners with Tasmanian Medical Laboratories in Tasmania to provide genetic sample collection and testing. The Genomic Diagnostics Breast and Ovarian Cancer genetic test (BraOVO), tests for BRCA1, BRCA2 and seven other genes associated with inherited breast and ovarian cancer and satisfies the target gene requirements of the item.

As part of this testing, Genomic Diagnostics, in partnership with Genetic Counselling Australia (GCA) has introduced a pre-test genetic counselling service to support clinicians when requesting testing for patients eligible for item number 73296. Genetic Counselling Australia is a specialised private genetic counselling service dedicated to providing support, education and information to assist patients in understanding genetic testing and its implications before result disclosure, so they can make informed decisions about their health.

PLEASE NOTE: This service will be included free of charge for Medicare Item 73296 eligible patients if the requesting practitioner writes **"GENETIC COUNSELLING"** on the pathology request at the time of ordering the BRaOVO test.

PROCESS OF GENETIC COUNSELLING:

During the genetic counselling consultation, the Genetic Counselling Australia counsellors aim is to enhance the patient's experience with the Breast and Ovarian Cancer genetic test by:

1. Explaining in full the BraOVO test.
2. Preparing your patient for result disclosure by discussing potential outcomes of testing, including possible implications for not only the individual but also their at-risk relatives.
3. Discussing the benefits and limitations of testing.

The service will make every effort to answer questions raised by patients regarding the test and the implications and outcomes that could arise from it. Following the consultation, GCA will refer the patient back to the requesting healthcare practitioner for ongoing care, result delivery and any required follow-up. The counselling service is available from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday AEST. A genetic counsellor from the service will contact patients directly to arrange an appropriate appointment time, All consultations will be conducted via the telephone.

REFERRAL PROCESS

The process below outlines how to refer your patient to the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling service:

1. Your patient meets MBS eligibility under Item 73296 (patient has Breast or Ovarian Cancer and a >10% calculated risk score of having a pathogenic mutation).
2. Please discuss the genetic counselling option with your patient at the time of organising the BRaOVO test.
3. If your patient wishes to receive genetic counselling then write **"GENETIC COUNSELLING"** onto the BRaOVO test request form and include their contact phone number.
4. Your patient then has their blood sample collected and forwarded to Genomic Diagnostics.
5. Upon receipt at the laboratory, Genomic Diagnostics staff will contact Genetic Counselling Australia to initiate the counselling process.
6. A genetic counsellor from Genetic Counselling Australia will contact your patient to provide a complimentary intake call followed by a genetic counselling consultation within one week of receiving the referral.
7. Following genetic counselling, Genetic Counselling Australia will provide a written summary of the consultation and refer the patient back to you for ongoing care, result delivery and any required follow-up.
8. The genetic counsellor will not be involved with disclosure of results as the results will be sent directly to the referring practitioner by Tasmanian Medical Laboratories.

Genetic sample collections
provided by



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