



**Genetic Counseling Service**

75 Claremont Rd Suite 305

Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Dear Family Member,

A member of your family has been identified as having a genetic mutation in the **CDK4 gene**. Mutations in this gene are known to be associated with an increased risk for certain cancers. This means that other family members are at risk to carry this same gene mutation and hence at an increased risk for certain cancers. This letter has been written to summarize information regarding CDK4 mutations.

Individuals with mutations in the CDK4 mutations have Melanoma Cancer Syndrome (MCS). **CDK4 mutations carriers have an approximate 28-76% lifetime risk of developing melanoma and pancreatic cancer.** Clinical features that may be present in families that test positive for a CDK4 mutation include multiple primary melanomas in the same individual (often with an early age of onset), melanoma observed in multiple family members, and multiple skin moles. The risk for pancreatic cancer in patients with CDK4 mutations is not yet well understood but is elevated.

Understanding risk is an important tool in prevention and management of cancer. It is important to note that many individuals with CDK4 mutations will never develop cancer over their lifetime. When one inherits an CDK4 mutation, he/she is not inheriting cancer; rather they are inheriting a predisposition to cancer.

When an individual has one copy of the CDK4 gene mutation they have an increased risk cancer as outlined above. Because everyone has two copies of the gene for CDK4, this means that a parent who carries an CDK4 mutation has a 50% chance of passing the mutation onto each of their children. It also means that if a person carries such a mutation, their siblings have a 50% chance to carry the same mutation. Extended family members may also be at risk for having the same mutation. If a person does not carry the mutation, they cannot pass it onto their children.

**We strongly recommend that you and all persons in your family who are at risk for carrying the CDK4 gene mutation consider scheduling an appointment for cancer genetic counseling to discuss the benefits and limitations of genetic testing.** To pursue cancer genetic testing, it is helpful if you have a copy of your family member's genetic testing report indicating that they have an CDK4 mutation.

GeneScreen is available to discuss this information in more detail with you and coordinate appropriate testing. Please visit the following website to submit your request for genetic counseling: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/200926739003048>. You can also contact Genescreen directly at 908-766-2800 to schedule a remote consultation with a genetic counselor.

Sincerely,

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