

Mainstreaming Cancer Genetics (MCG) Programme

BRCA Testing Implementation Resources

The following pack contains the standard resources used by the MCG for implementation of mainstream BRCA testing and a Frequently Asked Questions document.

Protocols are provided for the MCG BRCA testing eligibility criteria and the MCGplus BRCA testing eligibility criteria. Both include 5 criteria based on cancer patient characteristics. MCGplus has a 6th family history category.

Both have a mutation detection rate of ~10%.

The following are included:

- MCG BRCA testing protocol
- MCGplus BRCA testing protocol
- MCG F1 Consent form for genetic testing
- MCG IS1 BRCA gene testing information sheet
- MCG IS2 Normal BRCA result information sheet
- MCG IS3 BRCA mutation result information sheet
- MCG IS4 BRCA VRE result information sheet
- MCG Implementation FAQs

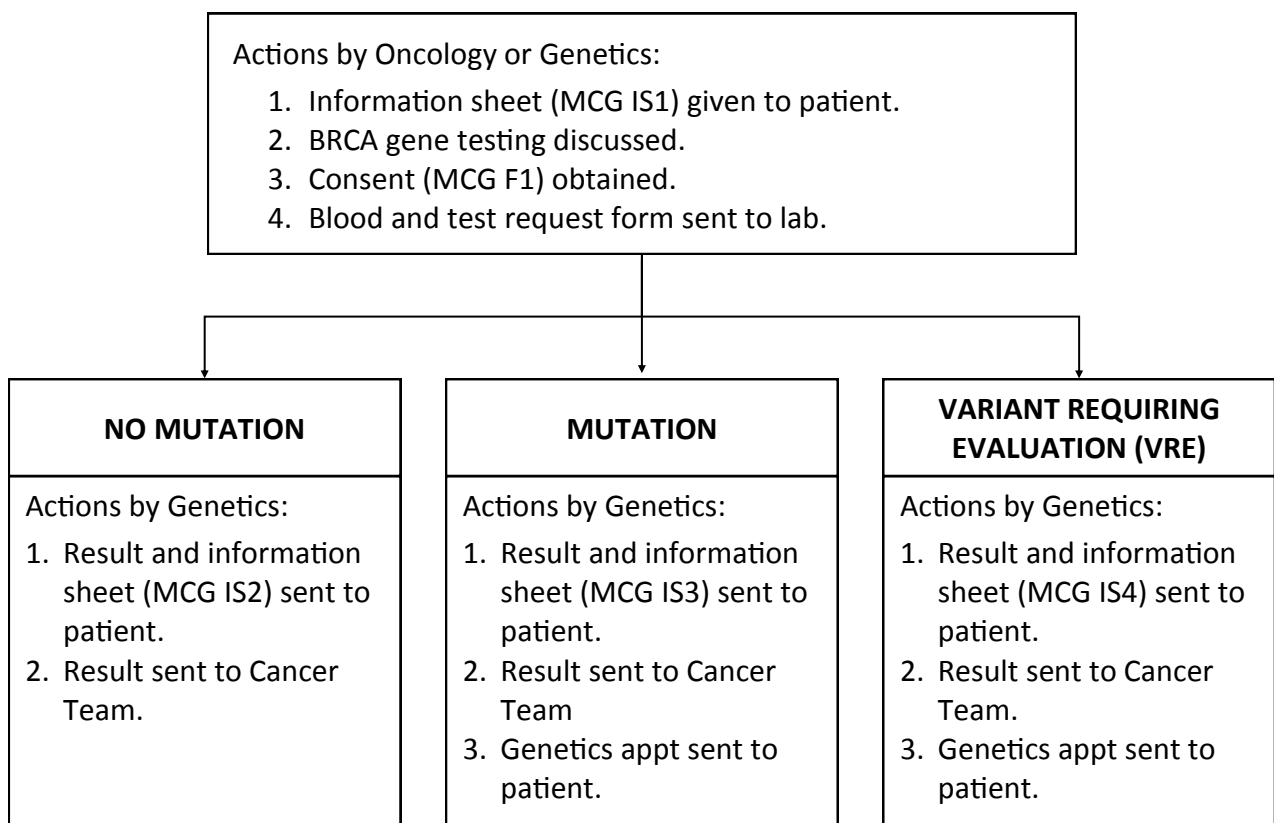
BRCA testing protocol - MCG criteria

MCG BRCA testing eligibility criteria

Individual with any of the following:

- 1) Ovarian cancer
- 2) Breast cancer ≤ 45 years
- 3) Two primary breast cancers, both ≤ 60 years
- 4) Triple-negative breast cancer
- 5) Male breast cancer

Process



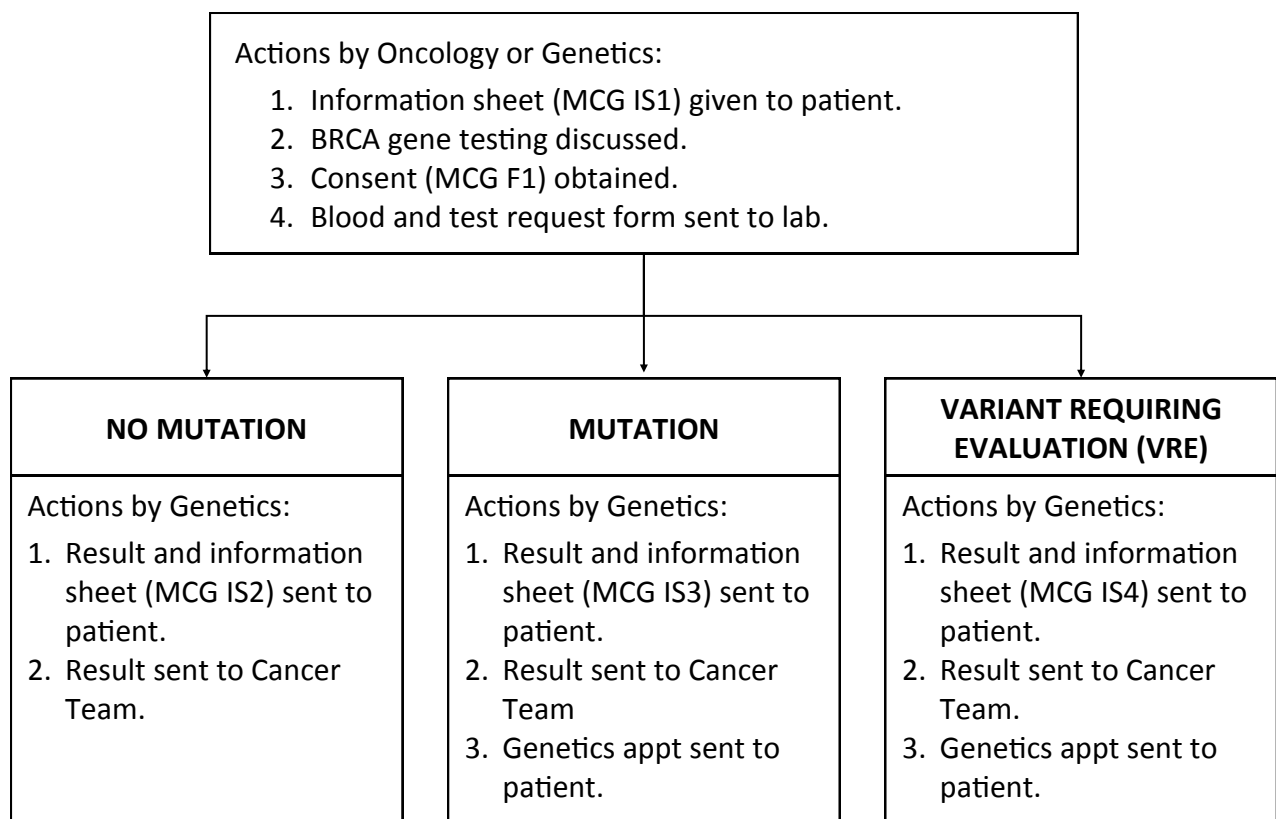
BRCA testing protocol - MCGplus criteria

MCGplus BRCA testing eligibility criteria

Individual with any of the following:

- 1) Ovarian cancer
- 2) Breast cancer ≤ 45 years
- 3) Two primary breast cancers, both ≤ 60 years
- 4) Triple-negative breast cancer
- 5) Male breast cancer
- 6) Breast cancer + parent, child or sibling with any of the above criteria

Process



Consent for Genetic Testing

XXX HOSPITAL NAME XXX Patient / parental agreement to investigation	Patient's surname/family name
	Patient's first names
	Date of birth
	Responsible health professional
	Job title
	Hospital number (or other identifier)
See overleaf for: (1) Special Requirements (2) Information provided and (3) Consent policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

Statement of health professional (to be filled in by health professional with appropriate knowledge of proposed procedure, as specified in consent policy)

The purpose of these investigations is to help establish the causes of cancer and/or risk of cancer for you. The results may also provide information which may be helpful for other family members. We have provided written information outlining the risks and benefits of these investigations. During the consultation and/or through written information we have discussed the following issues related to gene testing and you have agreed to the numbered statements indicated below. If you have further questions please contact the genetics team on **XXX**

Please circle as appropriate

1	I agree to the testing of	Yes		
2	I understand that the test results will be put on the electronic patient records	Yes		
3	I understand the sample will be stored in case new gene tests become available.	Yes		
4	I understand that additional tests may be undertaken on the stored sample, if indicated, and I will be informed of any relevant results.	Yes		
5	I agree that the test results can be made available to doctors looking after family members, on request.	Yes	No	N/A
6	I agree to the sample being used anonymously for research.	Yes	No	

Additional issues discussed:

Signature: _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____
(Patient / Parent / Guardian / Relative)

To be completed if individual identified above is deceased:

I agree to the above genetic tests and sharing of information on behalf of my relative.

Relationship to patient: _____

Signature: _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____
(Clinician)

To be retained in patient's notes

The following information leaflet / consultation letter(s) have been provided:

- ☐ (version no.)
- ☐ (version no.)

Special requirements (e.g. other language/other communication method):

.....

.....

Guidance to health professionals (to be read in conjunction with consent policy)**This form**

This form documents the patient's agreement (or that of a person with parental responsibility for the patient) to go ahead with the investigation you have proposed. **It is only designed for use where the patient is expected to remain alert throughout and where an anaesthetist is not involved in their care.**

Consent forms are not legal waivers – if patients, for example, do not receive enough information on which to base their decision, then the consent may not be valid, even though the form has been signed. Patients also have every right to change their mind after signing the form.

Who can give consent

Everyone aged 16 or more is presumed to be competent to give consent for themselves, unless the opposite is demonstrated. If a child under the age of 16 has “sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable him or her to understand fully what is proposed”, then he or she will be competent to give consent for himself or herself. Young people aged 16 and 17, and legally ‘competent’ younger children, may therefore sign this form for themselves, if they wish. If the child is not able to give consent for himself or herself, some-one with parental responsibility may do so on their behalf. Even where a child is able to give consent for himself or herself, you should always involve those with parental responsibility in the child's care, unless the child specifically asks you not to do so. If a patient is mentally competent to give consent but is physically unable to sign a form, you should complete this form as usual, and ask an independent witness to confirm that the patient has given consent orally or non-verbally.

When NOT to use this form (see also ‘This form’ above)

If the patient is 18 or over and lacks the capacity to give consent, you should use form 4 (form for adults who lack the capacity to consent to investigation or treatment) instead of this form. A patient lacks capacity if they have an impairment of the mind or brain or disturbance affecting the way their mind or brain works and they cannot:

- understand information about the decision to be made
- retain that information in their mind
- use or weigh that information as part of the decision-making process, or
- communicate their decision (by talking, using sign language or any other means).

You should always take all reasonable steps (for example involving more specialist colleagues) to support a patient in making their own decision, before concluding that they are unable to do so.

Relatives **cannot** be asked to sign a form on behalf of an adult who lacks capacity to consent for themselves, unless they have been given the authority to do so under a Lasting Power of Attorney or as a court appointed deputy.

Information

Information about what the investigation will involve, its benefits and risks and the alternatives to the particular test proposed, is crucial for patients when making up their minds about investigations. The courts have stated that patients should be told about ‘significant risks which would affect the judgement of a reasonable patient’. ‘Significant’ has not been legally defined, but the GMC requires doctors to tell patients about ‘serious or frequently occurring’ risks. In addition if patients make clear they have particular concerns about certain kinds of risk, you should make sure they are informed about these risks, even if they are very small or rare. You should always answer questions honestly. Sometimes, patients may make it clear that they do not want to have any information about the options, but want you to decide on their behalf. In such circumstances, you should do your best to ensure that the patient receives at least very basic information about what is proposed. Where information is refused, you should document this overleaf or in the patient's notes.

The law on consent

See the Department of Health's *Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment* for a comprehensive summary of the law on consent (also available at www.dh.gov.uk/consent).

To be retained in patient's notes

BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene testing

Information sheet for patients with cancer

In most people cancer occurs by chance. In a minority of people with ovarian cancer (about 15%) or breast cancer (about 3%), cancer occurs because they have a mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations result in increased risks of breast and ovarian cancer. They occur more frequently in women who have both breast and ovarian cancer, those with particular types of cancer, and if there is a strong family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer. It is important to identify if a cancer is due to a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation because it provides you and your doctors with information that can help treat your cancer and to reduce your risk of future cancer. It can also provide information for relatives about their risks of cancer.

Why am I being offered this test?

You are being offered a test to look for mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 because of your cancer diagnosis.

What are the benefits to me?

Knowing whether or not you carry a mutation in BRCA1 or BRCA2 gives the cancer team more information about your cancer. This can help decisions about the treatments they recommend for you, for example which chemotherapy drugs or surgery would be most suitable. It will also give better information about your risk of developing cancer in the future.

Does having the test have implications for my family?

In most people the test will be normal and we will not find a gene mutation. This would be reassuring for relatives as it would indicate that your cancer was unlikely to be due to hereditary factors that would put them at very high risk of cancer. If your test shows you have a gene mutation, it is possible that some relatives also have the mutation. Relatives would be able to discuss this with a specialist geneticist and have a test if they chose to.

What will happen if NO mutation in BRCA1 or BRCA2 is found?

This is the most likely outcome, as most women with cancer do not have a mutation in BRCA1 or BRCA2. This would be reassuring in suggesting you are unlikely to be at high risk of developing another, new cancer in the future. The cancer team will be able to use this information in their management decisions. Very occasionally mutations in other genes can be involved in causing breast or ovarian cancer. Also new discoveries are being made all the time. If a new gene test becomes available in the future the genetics team may be able to do the test using the sample you have already provided and would send the result to you and the cancer team. If your doctors think other genetic factors might be involved in your cancer they can ask the genetics clinic to send you an appointment to evaluate this, if you have not already had an appointment with genetics.

What will happen if a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation is found?

Your cancer team will use the information in their management decisions. The genetics team will send you an appointment to discuss the results and address any questions you have. They will also discuss what the test result means for your future risk of cancer, your options for future screening and measures to reduce these risks. They will evaluate your family history and can provide information for the appropriate family members should they wish to consider testing to see if they have inherited the mutation. Any relatives can be referred to a Genetics Unit to discuss this further.

What will happen if the test result is unclear?

Very occasionally (<1%) we find a gene change, known as a 'variant', that needs further assessment before we can decide if it is linked to why you have had cancer. If this occurs, the genetics team will send you an appointment to explain the result and to discuss with you what further information and/or tests would be helpful to find out if the variant is linked to your cancer.

Do I have to have the test?

No, having this test is optional. Your decision will not affect the standard of care you receive from the hospital or doctor, which will be based on the available information.

What if I am not sure if I want to have the test?

We would recommend for you to have further discussions with a specialist member of the genetics team.

What will happen next if I say yes?

If you decide to have the test, you will be asked to sign a consent form. A blood sample will be taken for the test.

How will I receive the results of the test?

The genetics team will send you and your cancer team the results of the test by post. The results may take up to 4 weeks, but will usually be within 3 weeks.

Will my information be confidential?

All data collected about you will be held under the provisions of the 1998 Data Protection Act and stored in secure files. The only people who will know your identity are the hospital staff and a few trained staff reporting the results who are bound by a professional duty to protect your privacy.

If you have any questions please contact XXX on XXX

Receiving a normal BRCA1 and BRCA2 test result

Information sheet for patients with cancer

You had a BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test because you have had cancer.

The test result is normal.

No BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation (gene change) was identified in your blood sample.

What does this result mean for me?

This means we have not found a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation which would put you at high risk of developing another cancer. The cancer team will discuss if this normal result has any implications for your cancer management.

A normal result is common. In most women with breast and/or ovarian cancer no mutation in BRCA1 or BRCA2 is found. If you have a strong family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer, or a strong family history of other cancers, or if you developed cancer at an unusually young age, it may be helpful to look into things further. The genetics or cancer team will discuss this with you, if appropriate.

Very occasionally mutations in other genes can be involved in causing breast or ovarian cancer. Also new discoveries are being made all the time. If a new gene test becomes available the genetics team may be able to do the test using the sample you have already provided and they will send the result to you and your cancer team.

What does this result mean for my relatives?

This result is good news for your relatives, as it means they are unlikely to be at high increased risk of developing breast and/or ovarian cancer themselves. You may wish to share this result with them.

All women are eligible to have mammograms from 47 years in the National Breast Screening Programme. Depending on the family history, some women may be eligible for mammograms from 40 years, even if there has been a normal BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene test in the family. There is currently no known effective form of ovarian screening. If a woman has multiple relatives with ovarian cancer removal of the ovaries is sometimes considered.

If any of your relatives wish to discuss their own risks of cancer further they should speak with their GP who can refer them for further discussions at a Family History or Genetics clinic.

If you have any further questions, please contact XXX on XXX

Receiving a BRCA1 and BRCA2 test result that identifies a mutation

Information sheet for patients with cancer

You had a BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test because you have had cancer.

The test result has shown that you have a mutation (gene change) in either the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene. The exact details of the mutation are given in the test report.

BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations result in increased risks of breast and ovarian cancer, and occasionally other cancers. Therefore this result provides an explanation for why you developed cancer.

Your cancer team will discuss with you if this result has implications for your cancer treatment and/or follow-up.

This result has implications for your future health and potentially for your relatives. An appointment has been made for you in the Genetics clinic to discuss these issues further. At the appointment you will be able to discuss your future risks of cancer and your options for cancer screening and measures to reduce the risk of cancer. The potential implications for relatives will also be discussed. The processes by which your relatives can have discussions themselves to decide if they wish to have testing will be explained.

You may find it helpful to read the information booklet "A Beginner's Guide to BRCA1 and BRCA2" which gives more detailed information. This can be downloaded from www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/brca

If you need to discuss anything urgently prior to your appointment, or wish to alter the date of your appointment, please contact XXX on XXX

Receiving a BRCA1 and BRCA2 test result that identifies a variant requiring evaluation (VRE)

Information sheet for patients with cancer

You had a BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test because you have had cancer.

The test result has shown that you have a gene change (variant) in either the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene that requires further evaluation.

At the moment, we do not have enough information to decide if this variant is linked to why you have had cancer.

Variants in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are common, and most do not cause cancer. Very occasionally, we find a variant that requires further assessment before we can decide if it leads to an increased risk of cancer. In some cases, we may need to do further blood tests to help us find out more about the impact of the variant.

We have made an appointment for you in the Genetics clinic to discuss your result further. At the appointment we will explain in more detail about the result and any further tests that may be required. We will also discuss the process and timeframe for deciding if the variant is likely to be linked to your cancer.

It is important for us to have as much information as possible when we see you. We have enclosed a family history questionnaire with your letter, and would be very grateful if you would fill this in and return it to us before we see you in clinic.

If you need to discuss anything urgently prior to your appointment, or wish to alter the date of your appointment, please contact XXX on XXX

MCG BRCA testing protocol implementation Frequently asked questions

Last updated: 01/08/2018

Q: What are the MCG eligibility criteria for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation (termed BRCA) testing?

The MCG eligibility for BRCA testing (i.e. to look in blood for mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes) in breast cancer (BC) or ovarian cancer (OC) patients are as follows:

- 1) Ovarian cancer
- 2) Breast cancer ≤45 years
- 3) Two primary breast cancers, both ≤60 yrs
- 4) Triple-negative breast cancer
- 5) Male breast cancer

Q: What are the MCGplus eligibility criteria for BRCA mutation testing?

The MCGplus eligibility criteria for BRCA testing are the same as the MCG criteria but include an additional criterion as follows:

- 1) Ovarian cancer
- 2) Breast cancer ≤45 years
- 3) Two primary breast cancers, both ≤60 yrs
- 4) Triple-negative breast cancer
- 5) Male breast cancer
- 6) Breast cancer and a parent, child or sibling with any of the above criteria

Q: How were the eligibility criteria for BRCA testing decided?

The eligibility criteria for BRCA testing are in line with UK NICE recommendations www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg164 which state that any patient with ≥10% chance of having a BRCA mutation should be tested. Similar guidelines exist globally. Extensive evaluation and data audit has shown that patients meeting the above eligibility criteria are at ≥10% risk of a BRCA mutation.

Q: Are the eligibility criteria the same in Oncology and Genetics?

Yes. The same eligibility criteria are used for patients tested through Oncology and Genetics Units.

Q: Are all patients with ovarian cancer eligible for BRCA testing?

Patients with epithelial ovarian cancer are eligible for BRCA testing. Epithelial ovarian cancer is cancer which started in the surface layer covering the ovary. It is the most common type of ovarian cancer accounting for >90% cases.

Q: What is triple-negative breast cancer?

Triple-negative breast cancer is a breast cancer negative for oestrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR) and HER2 expression. For the purpose of genetic testing this means an Allred score of 0, 1 or 2 for ER and PR receptors and HER2 Score of 0 or 1+ by immunohistochemistry, or a score of 2+ by immunohistochemistry and DDISH negative

Q: Who can perform BRCA testing in patients?

Geneticists and non-geneticists can perform BRCA testing. Non-geneticists should feel competent and confident to perform testing. MCG developed a short (~20) online training for non-geneticists which is available at www.mcgprogramme.com.

Q: When should discussion of BRCA testing be undertaken?

This should be at the discretion of the clinician. BRCA testing can be discussed and undertaken at the time of diagnosis, during active cancer management or during follow up. However, if the result is required for management decisions, timing of testing must be planned accordingly.

Q: What information should I give to the patient prior to obtaining consent?

An information sheet such as the 'BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene testing - Information sheet for patients with cancer' (MCG IS1) should be given to the patient. Patients should be informed that BRCA mutations are a cause of cancer and knowing whether or not a BRCA mutation is involved in causing their cancer can be helpful for their current and future management. The clinician may like to describe the specific relevance of the test for the specific patient. The patient should also be aware that the result can provide information of relevance to the wider family. However, it is important to remember that most tests are normal and therefore detailed discussions regarding risk management for patient and relatives, prior to testing, are not required. If a patient has questions that require either more time or more expertise than you are able to provide, the patient should be referred to Genetics. The training provides further information about BRCA testing.

Q: What should I do if a patient has additional queries before BRCA testing?

Patients with additional queries can be referred to Genetics for an appointment and further discussion. Contact details for Genetics should be readily available.

Q: Which consent form should I use?

The 'Consent for Genetic Testing' form (MCG F1) used by MCG is available at www.mcgprogramme.com. The training provides further information about how to take consent.

Q: How long does it take to get a BRCA result?

The results of full analysis of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes typically take about ~3 weeks, but may take longer. You should check with your local laboratory.

Q: Should *in situ* breast cancer be included when assessing eligibility?

Yes. *In situ* cancer, such as DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ) and LCIS (lobular carcinoma in situ), should be included in the same way as invasive breast cancer in assessing eligibility for BRCA testing.

Q: How should multiple metachronous ipsilateral breast cancers be assessed?

Two (or more) separate, ipsilateral breast cancers which have occurred 5 or more years apart should be considered as separate cancers in the assessment of eligibility for BRCA testing (i.e. they should be counted as a bilateral breast cancer), unless it is clear the second cancer is a recurrence. This is a pragmatic approach as it is currently not possible to robustly identify which are separate primaries and which recurrence, but most are likely to be separate cancers.

Q: How should multiple synchronous ipsilateral breast cancers be assessed?

These should be counted as a single breast cancer for assessing eligibility for genetic testing. Simultaneous ipsilateral breast cancers are sometimes termed multifocal or multicentric.

Q: How strict are the age cut-offs for testing?

Age cut-offs are strictly applied. For example, a woman with bilateral breast cancer diagnosed at 58 years and 61 years would not be eligible for testing, but if she were diagnosed at 58 years and 60 years she would be eligible. It is recognised, and inevitable, that individuals close to a threshold may have similar likelihoods of carrying a mutation but different eligibility. We are working hard to

make eligibility generally more permissive, but in the meantime it is important for clinicians and patients to have confidence that criteria are being consistently applied.

Q: Can BRCA testing be undertaken in individuals who do not meet eligibility criteria?

Yes. Patients who do not meet any of the eligibility criteria can have a self-funded test. It should be made fully clear to these patients that the chance of detecting a mutation is <10%. Self-funding patients should be consented in the normal way.

Q: What if a patient meets the criteria but chooses not to have a test?

The test is optional. A patient may decline to be tested, ask to have longer to think about testing or be referred to Genetics if they want, or need, more detailed discussions.

Q: What if a family member has already had BRCA testing and a mutation was found?

If a member of the family has already had a BRCA test and a mutation was found this should be noted on the lab form. It may influence the testing that is performed.

Q: What if a relative has already been tested and does not carry a BRCA mutation?

A BRCA test can still be performed on a second individual within the family if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Q: Are unaffected individuals eligible for BRCA testing?

Unaffected individuals with a family history of cancer are not eligible for NHS-funded BRCA testing in our centre. Recent data has shown that the mutation rate is well below the 10% NICE threshold for testing. Testing should be performed in an eligible cancer patient in the family if possible. Or the individual can have a self-funded test.

Q: Who gives the patient the result of the BRCA test?

In our centre the Genetics team writes to the patient with the result and send an information sheet with additional information. The referring clinician and GP are also notified. The result is uploaded to the electronic patient record.

Q: What happens if no mutation is identified?

The Genetics team inform the patient of the result in writing and send the patient a copy of the report and the information sheet 'Receiving a normal BRCA1 and BRCA2 test result' (MCG IS2). The Cancer team should use the information as appropriate for their cancer management. Usually no further input is required from Genetics. If the patient has an unusual cancer history or extensive family history of cancer or has questions about the result, an appointment should be arranged with the Genetics team.

Q: What happens if a mutation is identified?

The Genetics team inform the patient in writing and send the patient a copy of the report and the information sheet 'Receiving a BRCA1 and BRCA2 test result that identifies a mutation' (MCG IS3) and an appointment for the Genetics clinic. The Cancer team should use the information as appropriate for their cancer management. The Genetics team will discuss with the patient the implications for their future cancer risk and will also evaluate which relatives may be impacted. The processes for cascading the information to relatives will be explained.

Q: What if there is a variant requiring evaluation (VRE) identified?

Very occasionally (<1%), we identify a variant that does not fulfil the criteria for pathogenic mutations, but requires further evaluation. In such cases, an information sheet (MCG IS4) and an appointment with Genetics is sent to the patient. The result and further analyses required are discussed with the patient. Once the additional evaluation has been completed (typically 2-6 months) the patient and clinician are informed of the final management class. Variants are only classified as VREs if there is suggestive evidence of pathogenicity that can potentially be confirmed by additional analyses (e.g. a splicing assay).

Q: What if new evidence in the future shows a variant is pathogenic?

We keep all variants identified under review and if any are reclassified Genetics will automatically re-issue reports and clear, revised recommendations. It is important to remember that rare variants in these genes are collectively common in the general population (present in about 10%), and the great majority are not pathogenic.

Q: If a mutation is identified who will follow-up the patient's relatives?

The Genetics team give the patient a "To whom it may concern letter" to give to relatives. The letter explains that a cancer predisposition gene mutation has been identified in the family and that relatives can ask their GP to refer them to a genetics service to discuss the implications. This is standard practice in Genetics in UK.

Q: If the patient does not have a BRCA mutation, are there additional genetic tests that should be performed?

Panel testing of multiple cancer genes is now performed in many centres. Otherwise some patients may be eligible for further tests, particularly if they were diagnosed at a particularly young age, if they have multiple primary cancers or if there is an extensive family history of cancer. We recommend that such patients are referred to Genetics.

Q: What are the insurance implications for cancer patients?

In the UK if a cancer patient applies for life cover, critical illness or income protection cover after the gene test is performed then it will need to be disclosed, along with the other information about their cancer diagnosis. This is unlikely to have impact on the cover they are offered over and above the impact of their cancer diagnosis. If the gene test was performed after an insurance policy was set-up the result does NOT need to be disclosed.

Q: Are there insurance implications for the cancer patients relatives?

In the UK relatives need to tell the insurance company about the cancer diagnosis and if a gene mutation has been found when asked about their family history (if they are aware of it). If the test is normal some insurance companies may take this into consideration to mitigate the unfavourable impact of the family history. Unaffected individuals do not have to disclose the results of predictive gene testing to insurance companies but may choose to do so, particularly if the test is negative.

Q. How cost-effective is BRCA genetic testing using the MCG and MCGplus criteria?

Genetic testing using the MCG and MCGplus criteria is highly cost-effective as documented in our papers.