

**Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health
Oncology Services**

Genetic Testing

Genetic Testing/Counseling

Most individuals who develop cancer do not have a family history of cancer. If you have a family member with cancer, your risk may be increased. Some cancers appear to have a familial trait; because they occur in a family more often than would be expected in the general population.

Genetic counseling involves reviewing your family history and specific health information of family members who have been affected by cancer. Your personal risk for cancer is addressed and specific screening strategies are discussed. Depending on the situation, some families may undergo genetic studies to evaluate if the cancer occurring in their family is due to an inherited gene.

If you have several family members with cancer or one who was diagnosed at an early age and you want to discuss whether genetic testing is appropriate in your situation, contact your physician. If your physician identifies that you would benefit from genetic testing/counseling, you will be given a referral.