Who Can Benefit from a Genetics Nurse?

- Individuals and families with known conditions such as Alzheimer disease, cancer, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, Down syndrome, hemophilia, Huntington disease, Parkinson disease, Sickle Cell disease, heart disease, autoimmune conditions, and mental health illness.
- Anyone with a known genetic condition that ‘runs in the family’
- Families with a history of sudden death syndrome
- Anyone who is considering genetic testing
- Individuals and couples who are concerned with genetic issues or genetic testing related to pregnancy
- Couples who have had more than two miscarriages
- Physicians and nurses who seek genetics consultations for their patients

Nurses who specialize in genetic nursing can be credentialed by the Genetic Nursing Credentialing Commission Inc. (GNCC). More information on genetic nursing credentials can be found at www.geneticnurse.org.

What Is A Genetics Nurse?

The International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) http://isong.org
What Is A Genetics Nurse?

A genetics nurse is a licensed Registered Nurse with additional education and training in genetics. Genetics nurses help people at risk for, or affected by, diseases with a genetic component to achieve and maintain health.

Many common diseases are now known to have a genetic component, including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer’s.

Genetics nurses perform risk assessment, analyze the genetic contribution to disease risk, and discuss the impact of risk on health care management for individuals and families. They also provide nursing care, genetic education, and conduct research in genetics.

Where Might A Genetics Nurse Work?

- Specialty clinics where gene-based diagnoses and therapies are offered
- Prenatal and reproductive technology centers
- Hospitals
- Family primary health settings
- Specialty practices
- Cancer centers
- Pediatric clinics
- Mental Health centers
- Industrial health
- School health
- Academic Settings
- Research centers, such as National Institutes of Health
- Biotech, genetic, and insurance industries
- State Newborn Screening Agencies
- Private nonprofit organizations

What Can a Genetics Nurse Do For You?

- Obtain a detailed family history
- Identify potential genetic conditions or genetic predisposition to disease
- Provide genetic information and psychosocial support to individuals and their families
- Provide nursing care for patients and families at risk for, or affected by, diseases with a genetic component
- Provide genetic counseling (Advanced Practice Nurses)
- Facilitate genetic testing and interpret genetic test results and laboratory reports (Advanced Practice Nurses)
- Provide education on how to monitor your family’s health
- Provide referrals to centers of genetic excellence

ISONG is a leading authority on genetic/genomic nursing and education. Please visit our website at www.isong.org for more information or to become an affiliate ISONG member.