

## TAKING A TARGETED FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY

When taking a targeted family health history ask the following questions about each member of the family who has the condition of interest (i.e. heart disease, cancer, diabetes, etc...).

1. Age at diagnosis
2. Gender
3. Relationship of relative to your patient
4. Establish the lineage of affect relatives
5. Determine their ancestry
6. Record the presence of related conditions
  - a. For example, if your patient has a family history of heart disease you would want to ask if any of his or her affect relatives had high blood pressure, obesity, elevated cholesterol, etc.
7. Ask if anyone in the family had prophylactic treatment or surgery
  - a. For example, if your patient has a family history of breast cancer, you would want to find out if one or more of her relatives have taken Tamoxifen or had an oophorectomy for reasons other than ovarian cancer.
  - b. If a patient had a family history of colon cancer you would want to know if any of his or her relatives had a history of adenomatous polyps.

If a patient has a family history of cancer, collect information on everyone in the family who has cancer, regardless of the type. Be sure to record the occurrence of a second primary tumor.