

# Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer Syndrome

Based on your family history, you or members of your family may have a hereditary colon cancer syndrome called HNPCC (Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer) syndrome.

## Things You Should Know About HNPCC:

- People with HNPCC are more likely to get colon cancer:
  - For men, the chance of getting colon cancer is up to 80%, or 8 out of 10.
  - For women the chance is closer to 50%, or 5 out of 10.
  - Women are also at more likely to get cancer of the uterus. This risk is up to 70%, or 7 out of 10.
- People with HNPCC are also more likely to get cancer in other organs like the:
  - Stomach
  - Small bowel
  - Kidney and urinary tract
  - Ovaries
  - Pancreas
- Hereditary cancers may develop earlier in life, often before age 50.
- Not everyone who inherits a gene change will get cancer.
- There is a 50% chance that a person with HNPCC will pass it on to their children.

## Reasons to See a Genetic Counselor:

- The MeTree tool is a screening tool. It cannot tell you for certain that you or someone in your family has HNPCC.
- A genetic counselor can tell you how likely you are to have HNPCC.
- A genetic counselor can talk to you about being tested to see if you have HNPCC.
- If you have HNPCC, there are things you can do to lower your chance of getting cancer or find it early, when it is easier to treat.
- If you have HNPCC, other members of your family can be tested for HNPCC.