

Healthcare Professionals

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the criteria for referring a patient to the Victor Center?

- Any patient with Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry (who came from Eastern or Central Europe, such as Russia, Poland, Germany, Ukraine, Lithuania...), Sephardic (Northern Africa or Spain) or Mizrahi (Mid-East).
- Any patient whose partner has Ashkenazi, Sephardic or Mizrahi Jewish ancestry.
- Any partner of a patient found to be a carrier for a Jewish genetic disease.
- Any patient interested in pre-conception population carrier screening.

2. What happens in the course of a Victor Center appointment?

Your patient will meet with a genetic counselor to explain the current, most up-to-date, panel of diseases recommended for Ashkenazi Jewish carrier screening (or for their particular ethnic group), the benefits and limitations of carrier screening, autosomal recessive and sex-linked inheritance, pregnancy options for carrier-carrier couples, costs and billing process for screening. Patients will have their blood drawn or have a saliva kit provided at the appointment and sent to the appropriate laboratory for screening.

3. How does the patient learn about results?

Results are reported back to the patient by telephone from the genetic counselor. At that time, recommendations are made for screening the patient's partner (if applicable and not already performed) as well as other family members at risk of being carriers. Patients love the opportunity to ask the genetic counselor questions regarding the result. Once reported verbally, a hard copy is mailed to the patient for his/her records.

4. Will the Victor Center contact me with results? When?

Yes, if you want to be contacted verbally with results, the genetic counselor can contact you. Results take approximately 2-3 weeks. If you prefer to disclose the results to your patients, we can make those arrangements with you. Otherwise, the patient will be called, as stated above, and is encouraged to make a copy of the report to give to his/her physician for the medical record.

5. What kind of follow-up counseling do you provide patients and their families?

All patients have an opportunity to speak with a genetic counselor when they are called with their results. Most find this sufficient to answer their questions. Those with additional questions, or carrier-carrier couples may choose to come back for follow up genetic counseling to further discuss any concerns. If the patient is found to be affected with one of the diseases tested, genetic counseling is highly recommended.

6. Do you handle patient questions about insurance coverage for screening?

Yes, we can provide patients with the billing codes for carrier screening so they can verify insurance coverage themselves. We can also direct patients to the appropriate laboratory billing departments for assistance in determining coverage for genetic screening.



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