

# Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service



**The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service is a pre-test genetic counselling service provided by Genetic Counselling Australia (GCA).**

On 1st of November 2017, the MBS item 73296 was introduced to facilitate requesting of diagnostic genetic testing in patients with breast or ovarian cancer by treating specialists. Patients who are assessed as having a greater than 10% risk of identifying a pathogenic variant by their specialist qualify for this rebate. The Genomic Diagnostics' BRaOVO gene panel tests for BRCA1, BRCA2 and seven other genes associated with inherited breast and ovarian cancer and satisfies the target gene requirements of the item.

As part of this testing, Genetic Counselling Australia and Genomic Diagnostics' have introduced a pre-test genetic counselling service to support clinicians when requesting testing for patients eligible for item number 73296. Clinicians can indicate on the referral form if they wish the patient to be referred for this service.

The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service is provided by Genetic Counselling Australia (GCA), in partnership with Genomic Diagnostics. Genetic Counselling Australia is a specialised private genetic counselling service dedicated to providing support, education and information to assist patients in understanding genetic testing and making informed decisions about their health.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This service will be included free of charge for Medicare Item 73296 eligible patients if the requesting practitioner writes **"GENETIC COUNSELLING"** on the pathology request at the time of ordering the BRaOVO test.

## PROCESS OF GENETIC COUNSELLING:

During the genetic counselling consultation, the Genetic Counselling Australia genetic counsellor aims to enhance the patient's experience with the Breast and Ovarian Cancer genetic test (BRaOVO) by:

1. Explaining in full the Genomic Diagnostics Breast and Ovarian Cancer genetic test (BRaOVO).
2. Preparing your patient for result disclosure by discussing potential outcomes of testing, including possible implications for not only the individual but also their at-risk relatives.
3. Discussing the benefits and limitations of testing.
4. Providing a written summary of the consultation and referring the patient back to the requesting healthcare practitioner for ongoing care, result delivery and any required follow-up.
5. The genetic counsellor will not be involved with disclosure of results as the results will be sent directly to the referring practitioner by Genomic Diagnostics.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

The process below outlines how to refer your patient to the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling service:

1. Your patient meets MBS eligibility under Item 73296 (patient has Breast or Ovarian Cancer and a >10% calculated risk score of having a pathogenic mutation).
2. Please discuss the genetic counselling option with your patient at the time of organising the BRaOVO test.
3. If your patient wishes to receive genetic counselling then write **"GENETIC COUNSELLING"** onto the BRaOVO test request form and include their contact phone number.
4. Your patient then has their blood sample collected and forwarded to Genomic Diagnostics.
5. Upon receipt at the laboratory, Genomic Diagnostics staff will contact Genetic Counselling Australia to initiate the counselling process.
6. A genetic counsellor from Genetic Counselling Australia will contact your patient to provide a complimentary intake call followed by a genetic counselling consultation within one week of receiving the referral.
7. Following genetic counselling, Genetic Counselling Australia will provide a written summary of the consultation and refer the patient back to you for ongoing care, result delivery and any required follow-up.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. When should a requesting healthcare practitioner consider referring a patient to the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service?**

- A.** A patient who meets MBS eligibility under item 73296 (patient has Breast or Ovarian Cancer and a >10% calculated cancer risk score of having a pathogenic mutation) and who will be referred for the BRaOVO test from Genomic Diagnostics, is eligible for referral.

The requesting healthcare practitioner should refer any eligible patient that would benefit from talking to a genetic counsellor to better understand the test and its implications before result disclosure. To enable the genetic counselling service the practitioner must write "GENETIC COUNSELLING" on the BRaOVO test request form.

**Please note:** genetic counselling for other genetic conditions or cancer genes not included in the BRaOVO test are not covered by this service.

**Q. What level of counselling will be provided to the patient?**

- A.** The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service will make every effort to answer questions raised by patients regarding the test and the implications and outcomes that could arise from the test.

**Q. When will the service be available?**

- A.** The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetic Counselling Service will be available from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday AEST.

A genetic counsellor from the service will contact patients directly to arrange an appropriate appointment time. All consultations will be conducted via telephone.

**Q. On completion of testing, where will the results be delivered?**

- A.** All Genomic Diagnostics Breast and Ovarian Cancer genetic test results will be delivered by Genomic Diagnostics to the requesting healthcare practitioner for result disclosure to the patient.