

WHICH PATIENTS SHOULD BE REFERRED FOR GENETIC CONSULTATIVE SERVICES?

Genetic counseling should be considered for couples who have one or more of the following risk factors:

- An inherited disease present in a close family member.
- A child of either parent with a birth defect, mental retardation or a genetic disorder.
- Those who have, or are concerned that they might have, an inherited disorder or birth defect.
- Women who are pregnant or planning to be after age 35.
- Women who have had babies who died in infancy.
- People concerned that their jobs, lifestyles or medical history may pose a risk to outcome of pregnancy. Common causes of concern include exposure to radiation, medications, illegal drugs, chemicals or infections.
- Couples who would like testing or more information about genetic conditions that occur frequently in their ethnic group.
- Couples who are first cousins or other close blood relatives.
- Pregnant women with ultrasound examinations or prenatal blood screening tests that are abnormal.
- Amniocentesis results which identify a chromosomal defect.