

ACGC Role Definitions

Role/Competence	ACGC Definition
Case preparation	Involves reviewing all relevant information about the client and the indication for genetic counseling prior to the session.
Collect/document medical, pregnancy, and/or developmental history	Implies the eliciting of pertinent medical information including pregnancy, development and medical histories and environmental exposures.
Collect/document family history/pedigree	Involves the eliciting of information for and construction of a complete pedigree.
Risk assessment	Involves pedigree analysis and evaluation of medical and laboratory data to determine recurrence/occurrence risks.
Evaluate/ coordinate genetic testing	Includes determining the appropriate genetic test(s), evaluating laboratories, and/or coordinating the testing.
Clinical documentation	Implies writing clinic notes or letters about the appointment
Follow-up	Includes but not limited to conducting further literature review, maintaining contact with the family to address any additional concerns, or identification of other health care professionals or resources for patient care.
Develop counseling plan/agenda	Form a counseling plan and agenda that includes pertinent education issues to address
Educate about inheritance patterns	Involves educating patients about modes of inheritance.
Provides risk counseling	Involves educating patients about their personal and/or familial risks
Discussion of diagnosis & natural history	Includes conveying genetic, medical, and technical information about the diagnosis, etiology, natural history and prognosis of genetic conditions and/or birth defects.
Provides medical management/ prevention/ treatment information	Includes discussing current medical management, prevention, and treatment of genetic conditions and/or birth defects.
Reviews genetic and/or prenatal testing options and possible b/l/results	Includes explaining the technical and medical aspects of diagnostic and screening methods and reproductive options, including associated risks, benefits, and limitations.
Results disclosure	Involves interpreting the results and discussing them with the patient; can include the development of teaching aids and the provision of educational materials
Research options/ consent	Involves discussion about research opportunities and/or consenting the patient for the study.
Rapport/ Contracting	Refers to initiating the genetic counseling session, eliciting client concerns and expectations and establishing the agenda.
Psychosocial assessment	Includes eliciting and evaluating social and psychological histories and assessing clients' psychosocial needs.
Psychosocial support/counseling	Involves providing short term, client-centered counseling, psychosocial support, and anticipatory guidance to the family as well as addressing client concerns.
Resources identification/ referral	Includes helping the client identify local, regional and national support groups and resources in the community.
Case processing/ Self-assessment/ Reflection	Involves critical thinking about the session; what was done successfully as well as areas to improve.