

Dear Referring Physician,

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce a new service available to you and your patients through the Heart Institute at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

The Heart Institute Genetic Counseling Clinic is a new clinic established for patients and families, including adults and children, with potential heritable cardiovascular disorders. Services available through this clinic include:

- Evaluation of personal and family history
- Comprehensive risk assessment for familial and heritable cardiovascular disorders including cardiomyopathy, congenital heart disease, and inherited rhythm disorders including Long QT syndrome
- A thorough pretest counseling session regarding the benefits and limitations of genetic testing
- Facilitation of genetic testing if indicated
- Post-test counseling which includes discussion of the implications of genetic test results and risk management options for the patient and other family members
- Discussion of insurance coverage and current protections in place provided by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA).
- Upon request, we provide education in-services or presentations related to the genetics of cardiomyopathy or other heritable cardiovascular disease to your office staff or community groups.

Recommendations and clinical utility of genetic testing in patients with Long QT syndrome has been well established. More recently, it has been established that many cases of idiopathic cardiomyopathy have an inherited predisposition. The Heart Failure Society of America published practice guidelines earlier this year regarding the genetic evaluation of cardiomyopathy (Hershberger, et al JCF 2009). The guidelines state that genetic testing should be considered in all cases of idiopathic cardiomyopathy. The guidelines also state that of all the cardiomyopathies, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy has the strongest evidence to support genetic testing, and recommend that genetic testing be part of routine care.

To refer a patient to the Heart Institute Genetic Counseling Clinic, please use the enclosed fax referral form. When this form is received, our patient and family advocate will contact the patient to schedule an appointment. Your office or patients may also request an appointment by calling (513) 636-2156.

If you have any questions about the Genetic Counseling Clinic or any other clinical services available through the Heart Institute, please call (513) 636-4729 to speak with Erin Miller. For more information, visit www.cincinnatichildrens.org/heart-genetics.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Miller, MS Genetic Counselor

Erin m miller

The Heart Institute

Jeffrey Towbin, MD Chief, Pediatric Cardiology

The Heart Institute

Stephanie Ware, MD, PhD

Clinical Geneticist

Division of Human Genetics

Enclosed: Patient Fax Referral Form, Heart Institute Genetics Clinic Fact sheet