



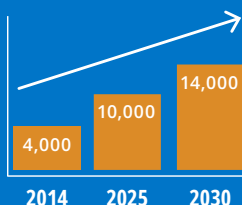
Access to
Genetic Counselor
Services Act

Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act H.R. 6280 and S.3607

A bipartisan and bicameral bill that would recognize genetic counselors in the Medicare program, allowing direct reimbursement for their services. The bill is supported by over 250 academic centers, health systems, clinician groups, and patient advocacy organizations.

Genetic Counselors Help Understand Disease Risk

Genetic counselors are healthcare providers with advanced training in medical genetics and psychosocial support strategies who provide genetic counseling. They help individuals understand and interpret genetic risk information to adapt into healthcare decision-making, which can guide treatment strategies. This includes recommending appropriate genetic tests, determining eligibility for clinical trials, and identifying at-risk relatives who may benefit from early surveillance for disease. Genetic counselors are uniquely qualified to offer genetic counseling services.



The number of certified genetic counselors in the United States has nearly doubled over a decade, expanding from 4,000 in 2014 to approximately 10,000 in 2025, with projected growth to 14,000 genetic counselors by 2030.

Genetic counselors play a key role in helping patients navigate the complexities of genomic information and make informed medical decisions based on genetic risks or disorders. With their expertise in counseling, they also provide support in difficult circumstances and empower patients with information to guide their overall healthcare decisions.

There are nearly 200,000 genetic tests on the clinical global market, and 10 new tests are introduced every day in the United States¹. Genetic testing and associated counseling services are becoming increasingly important for targeted, personalized therapies. Medicare beneficiaries with cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurological disorders – along with other conditions that disproportionately affect the elderly – need access to the services of genetic counselors to understand genetic testing options and make the right decisions about their care.

Genetic Counselors Provide Value and Cost Savings

Genetic counselors are an integral part of the healthcare team, working alongside other providers to select the most appropriate genetic tests, interpret results, and explain their implications to the

Medicare Does Not Currently Cover Genetic Counseling by Genetic Counselors

Services provided by highly-trained and qualified genetic counselors are not directly reimbursed by Medicare, despite the fact that genetic counseling is reimbursed when delivered by other healthcare professionals (see below).

PROVIDER	Direct Billing?	
	YES	NO
Physicians (Medical Degree)	✓	
Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (Master's Degree)	✓	
Certified Nurse Midwives (Master's Degree)	✓	
Physician Assistants (Master's Degree)	✓	
Audiologists (Doctorate Degree)	✓	
Naturopath (Degree varies)	✓	
Specialty nurse practitioners (Master's Degree)	✓	
Genetic Counselors (Master's Degree)		✓

The lack of reimbursement limits access to care, as many hospitals and healthcare systems struggle to employ an adequate number of genetic counselors to meet the growing demand. Consequently, there are areas throughout the country where patients do not have access to genetic counselors—depriving them of information and guidance that can critically impact their medical care. This leads to long wait times and reduced access to essential services, especially as there is a growing role of genetics in modern medicine.

patient and their family. By minimizing unnecessary testing, genetic counselors help both private and public insurers save significant costs, expedite diagnosis, and prevent the ongoing expenses associated with ineffective treatments.

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10142561/>