How much does DNA banking cost?

- The cost varies depending on the laboratory used and the amount of time the DNA is to be stored.
- Costs range from approximately $50 to $350.
- Storage ranges from 5 years to no time limit.
- There may also be a charge at the time that you request the sample to be released from the laboratory.
- DNA banking usually is not covered by insurance.

Who can access or use my banked DNA?

You, or family members you choose, will be able to authorize the release of the sample. It can be used for future clinical genetic testing or research. If and when you would like to pursue genetic testing using the banked DNA, you should contact a genetics professional who can assist in assuring that the appropriate genetic test is ordered and is pursued through a qualified laboratory.

Where can I go for more information regarding DNA banking and genetics?

- National Society of Genetic Counselors: “Find a Counselor” resource: www.nsgc.org
- GeneTests, funded by The National Institutes of Health (NIH), has information on DNA banking laboratories: Use the “Laboratory Directory” to search for ‘DNA banking’ at www.genetests.org
- American College of Medical Genetics: www.acmg.net
- American Society of Human Genetics: www.ashg.org
- International Society of Nurses in Genetics: www.isong.org

This brochure was funded by the Familial Cancer Risk Counseling Special Interest Group of the National Society of Genetic Counselors.
DNA banking is a tool that allows genetic material from an individual to be saved.

DNA banking involves drawing a blood sample and sending it to a laboratory where the DNA is removed and stored.

DNA can be banked on individuals with specific health conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or children with unexplained birth defects or mental retardation.

DNA banking is often important because genetic testing is most accurate when it is first performed on a relative with the condition.

DNA banking provides the family with the opportunity to pursue genetic testing at a later point in time.

**Examples of situations where DNA banking may be beneficial:**

- An individual with a personal and family history of cancer who had genetic testing, but a mutation was not identified. Thus, the potential hereditary cause of the cancer in the family remains unknown. DNA banking will allow the family to take advantage of future advances in genetic testing technology. Access to this information may help them to better understand their personal cancer risks.

- An individual who is terminally ill or in the end stages of life. DNA banking allows for a simple and immediate solution to assure availability of genetic material for future testing. The family can then focus their attention on their loved-one and defer the process of genetic evaluation, counseling and testing to a time when they are ready.

**What is DNA banking?**

**How do I access DNA banking?**

You are encouraged to discuss the option of DNA banking with your health care provider. However, because the availability of DNA banking is rather new and not yet part of routine medical care, involvement of a genetics professional is often beneficial. A genetics professional can help evaluate whether DNA banking is appropriate and coordinate this service as needed.

**Where can I find a genetics professional?**

- Ask your health care provider.
- Check with a local genetics service.
- Contact one of the nationally recognized professional genetic organizations (see back of brochure).

**Where is my DNA banked?**

DNA banking is offered through both commercial laboratories and academic/university based laboratories around the world. You can locate one of these laboratories by contacting a genetics professional in your area or by visiting www.genetests.org and searching for ‘DNA banking’ in the ‘Laboratory Directory’.