

**SAMPLE LETER OF MEDICAL NECESSITY  
For Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer Testing**

ATTN:       **[Physician Name, M.D.]**  
              **[Insurance Company/Institution]**  
              **[Street Address]**  
              **[City, State, Zip]**

Re:           **[Patient Name or ID/Claim Number]**

Dear Medical Director:

I am writing to request coverage for a *BRCA1/BRCA2* DNA sequence analysis test for **[patient name]** due to a family history of the following: (Relevant cancers include: breast, ovarian, and pancreatic)

Relationship _____	Cancer Site _____	Age _____
Relationship _____	Cancer Site _____	Age _____
Relationship _____	Cancer Site _____	Age _____

This history is suggestive of hereditary susceptibility to breast and ovarian cancer, most of which is due to mutations in the *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genes. If the patient were found to have a mutation in the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene, then he/she would be considered at significantly increased risk to develop cancer over the general population. Women who carry a *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutation have an 87% lifetime risk of developing breast cancer, as well as a 27-44% lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer. Because an aggressive approach to medical management is necessary for individuals identified as having a genetic mutation, test results are important in reducing cancer risk and promoting early cancer detection. The identification of a *BRCA* mutation in this patient would significantly alter patient management, including increasing the frequency of close surveillance and consideration of prophylactic surgeries and/or use of chemoprevention. **The American Society of Clinical Oncology recommends that genetic testing be offered to individuals with suspected inherited cancer risk in which test results will aid in medical management decision-making.** For this patient in particular, the genetic test results are needed in order to consider: (Please check all that apply)

Prophylactic oophorectomy  
 Bilateral Mastectomy  
 Intensive breast surveillance for life  
 Other, (please describe below)

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Sequence analysis is the most sensitive clinical test to look for predisposition mutations and is one of the most complex clinical diagnostic tests that exists today. The technical challenge of traditional DNA analysis represented as "usual and customary" should not apply to the complex analysis involved with *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* sequencing analysis.

Please contact me if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,  
**(Physician Signature)**