Frequently Asked Questions

How can I check if my patient is eligible under the latest guidelines?
The national genomic test directory is updated regularly. For the latest eligibility please refer to R430 in the rare and inherited disease eligibility criteria document (a PDF) accessible via this website:
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-genomic-test-directories/

Other test codes that may be relevant to you include: R444 NICE approved PARP inhibitor treatment and R240 Diagnostic testing for known mutation(s)

How can I check what genes are covered in the R430 genetic test?
The NHS GMS panel app website links to the genes currently on each panel
https://nhsgms-panelapp.genomicsengland.co.uk/panels search for R430 or 'inherited prostate cancer'

Can patients with prostate cancer diagnosed in the past have testing via the mainstream?
If a patient who has had prostate cancer in the past re-presents to your service, is eligible for testing, and has not had any prior testing, then testing can be offered.

Please see 'Assessing Eligibility' presentation to help you choose the most appropriate test for your patient. There are no plans to recall patients with historic prostate cancer to offer genetic testing.

Can patients have genetic testing even if their relative had an uninformative result (no genetic cause found) in the past?
If your patient is eligible for genetic testing in their own right then you can offer the test, regardless of whether another relative has had testing before. E.g. a man with prostate cancer aged 49 can be offered R430 even if he reports that his brother had genetic testing in the past due to his own prostate cancer and this was uninformative (nothing significant found).

My patient is not sure about their family history of cancer, what should I do?
If your patient is eligible in their own right e.g. diagnosed with prostate cancer under 50; Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry and prostate cancer at any age, then genetic testing can be offered. If testing eligibility depends on the family history and the details are not clear, then you can make a referral to Genomic Medicine where ways of trying to obtain the necessary confirmation can be discussed. These may include contacting the regional cancer registry, requesting histopathology reports or the patient seeking further family history information from discussion with other relatives or seeking death certificates.

My patient is not sure about accepting the offer of genetic testing, what should I do?
If your patient has more questions about genetic testing and you feel would benefit from a more detailed discussion they can be referred to Genomic Medicine. Please state clearly on a referral that this patient has additional questions requiring further pre-test counselling otherwise a referral will be rejected.

Why am I being asked to offer mainstream testing?
As more genetic testing becomes possible there has been a national shift towards offering this via the mainstream. This can benefit patients who do not need to wait for a further appointment and can get results quicker which may impact on their treatment and care. Genomic Medicine will no longer be accepting

routine referrals for patients with prostate cancer who are now eligible for diagnostic genetic testing via the mainstream. Genomic Medicine wish to support their local colleagues in offering mainstream testing and can develop further educational resources as required.

How do I ensure I complete the request form correctly?
The rare disease referral form is accessible via:
https://mft.nhs.uk/nwglh/documents/test-request-forms/
Print and complete form to accompany sample which needs to be sent to the local Genomics laboratory

- Clinical Details (type of test): tick Diagnostic Test
- Clinical Indication Code: enter **R430** inherited prostate cancer (or other applicable test code)
- Test Details: document the patient's eligibility criteria and the test required e.g. *'Patient recently diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer aged 55'.*

Email for any laboratory queries is mft.genomics@nhs.net

Email for any eligibility queries is lwft.clingen@nhs.net

What about patients that do not want the test but would like to store their DNA sample for their family to access in the future?
Some patients who are eligible for genetic testing do not consent to have genetic test now. They can be offered the option to have their DNA sample stored. In this situation the consent form does not need to be completed. Having a DNA sample stored allows the possibility of future genetic testing.

Testing of any stored DNA sample after the death of the patient can be discussed and arranged where suitable by Genomic Medicine only. A relative can be referred to Genomic Medicine to discuss this option.

To arrange DNA storage the referral form must be completed as follows:

- Clinical Details (type of test) – tick DNA Storage
- Clinical Indication Code/Test Code: R346 **DNA storage only**

Further guidance on the North West Genomic Laboratory Hub can be found here:
https://mft.nhs.uk/nwglh/

What about patients found to have a variant of unknown significance (VUS)?
VUS findings are not routinely stated on R430 and related test reports. If a VUS is found, and if this is later reclassified to a significant result the laboratory will contact the referring clinician.

Occasionally, the lab may report VUS findings*. If a VUS is stated on one of your patient's reports, please discuss this with the laboratory and Genomic Medicine for further support and guidance with this result.*

What should I do if a patient has an uninformative genetic test result (nothing significant is found) and is not eligible for referral to the regional genetics centre, but I am still concerned about their family history?
Clinicians can direct queries to the on-call team at the Liverpool Centre for Genomic Medicine via email: lwft.clingen@nhs.net or by telephoning 0151 802 5001.

A member of our clinical team will be happy to answer any questions you may have and offer further guidance.

What about funding for the R430 testing?

The laboratories are centrally funded to provide this testing service for patients who meet eligibility criteria according to the latest national test directory.

Is there any other way a patient can be eligible for R430 testing?
Canrisk scores can be considered as part of the eligibility assessment. These should include as much family history as possible including relatives who do not have cancer. CanRisk is an online tool available via https://canrisk.org/

Manchester scoring system can also be considered as part of the eligibility assessment.

See 'Assessing Eligibility' presentation for further information.

Why do we recommend referral to Genomic Medicine if the patient has a family history of certain other cancers?
There are inherited disorders that link prostate cancers to other prostate cancers, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and pancreatic cancer.

However, there are other inherited disorders that can link prostate cancers to other types of cancers. One example of such a disorder is Lynch syndrome which is associated with the following: bowel cancer, endometrial cancer, ureteric cancer, transitional cell cancer of renal pelvis, prostate cancer, cholangiocarcinoma, small bowel cancer, glioblastoma, endocervical cancer, multiple sebaceous tumours, gastric. If any of these are present in your patient's family history and you wish to discuss further, please contact the on-call team at the Liverpool Centre for Genomic Medicine via email: lwft.clingen@nhs.net or by telephoning 0151 802 5001.

Are there any other training resources for R430 mainstreaming or genetics/genomics?
Other training and information resources include:
Genomics Health England GeNotes
https://www.genomicseducation.hee.nhs.uk/genotes/

Health Education England Genomics Education Programme
https://www.genomicseducation.hee.nhs.uk/
Cancer Genetics Group (part of British Society of Genomic Mediciine)
https://www.ukcgg.org/information-education/ukcgg-leaflets-and-guidelines/
https://www.ukcgg.org/information-education/national-and-international-guidelines/
Future Learn

NW GLH
https://mft.nhs.uk/nwglh/nwglh-education-and-training-resources/

Liverpool Centre for Genomic Medicine
https://www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/our-services/liverpool-centre-for-genomic-medicine-lcgm/

Who can I contact with questions about R430 mainstreaming
Email for any laboratory queries is mft.genomics@nhs.net
Email for clinical (case) queries or questions lwft.clingen@nhs.net