Certified Genetic Counselor (CGC)
Exam Content Outline - Effective August 1, 2023

Domain Title/ Subdomain Title	# Of Questions
Domain 1. Clinical Information, Human Development, and Genetic Conditions	**34**
A. Clinical Information	13
1. Medical history, including pregnancy history	
2. Teratogens, exposure, and other non-genetic risk factors	
3. Differential diagnosis or indication	
4. Appropriateness and urgency of referral	
B. Human Development	6
1. Fetal development	
2. Development milestones	
3. Physical and psychological development	
C. Genetic Conditions	15
1. Clinical features	
2. Natural history	
3. Screening, surveillance, and risk reduction	
4. Treatment options	
5. Management options	
6. Diagnostic processes including clinical criteria and testing strategy	
7. Mode of inheritance	
8. Etiology	
Domain 2. Risk Assessment and Principles of Human Genetics and Genomics	**32**
A. Risk Assessment	17
1. Family history, pedigree construction, pedigree analysis	
2. Risk calculations	
3. Residual risk and follow-up medical plan	
B. Principles of Human Genetics and Genomics	15
1. Mendelian and non-Mendelian inheritance	
2. Factors that influence phenotype and genotype	
3. Population and quantitative genetics	
4. Human genetic variation and disease susceptibility	
Domain 3. Testing Interpretation, Testing Options, and Reproductive Risk Management	**35**
A. Testing and Interpretation	15
1. Test methodologies/technologies and applicable limitations	
2. Variant interpretation, reanalysis, and reclassification	
3. Clinical context	
4. Predictive value of test	
5. Sensitivity and specificity	
6. Analytic validity, clinical validity, and clinical utility	
7. Sample type	
B. Testing Options	12
1. Diagnostic	
2. Screening	
3. Predictive/pre-symptomatic	
4. Somatic	
5. Carrier	

6. Research	
C. Reproductive Risk Management	8
1. Assisted reproductive technologies (ART)	
2. Family planning and reproductive options	
3. Prenatal screening	
4. Prenatal diagnostic procedures	
Domain 4. Counseling Skills, Communication, and Education	**30**
A. Counseling Skills	
1. Contracting	
2. Interviewing techniques	
3. Psychosocial assessment and follow-up	
4. Family dynamics	
5. Client personal identity	
6. Cultural humility	
7. Counseling theories and models	
8. Defense mechanisms and coping strategies	
9. Decision-making styles	
10. Self-awareness and client-counselor dynamics	
B. Communication and Patient Education	15
1. Adapting counseling to modes of delivery	
2. Risk communication theories and models	
3. Strategies for working with interpreters	
4. Strategies of results delivery and long-term follow-up	
5. Impact of health literacy	
6. Elements of informed consent	
7. Informed decision making	
Domain 5. Financial/Reimbursement Issues, Resources and Services for Clients, Legal and Regulatory Requirements, and Professional Frameworks	**39**
A. Financial/Reimbursement Issues	7
1. Application of insurance policies	
2. Compliance with billing and reimbursement requirements	
3. Letters of medical necessity	
B. Resources and Services for Clients	8
1. Financial assistance resources	
2. Appropriateness of resources	
3. Timely delivery of resources	
C. Legal and Regulatory Requirements	11
1. Genetic non-discrimination legislation	
2. Patient access to information	
3. Privacy and confidentiality regulations	
4. Medical documentation	
5. Standards and regulations for human-subjects research	
6. Genomic data security	
D. Professional Frameworks	13
1. Code of Ethics	
2. Ethical decision making	
3. Evidence-based practice	
4. Conflict of interest	
5. Clinical supervision of students	
6. Scope of practice	
7. Professional and public education	

Secondary Classification		
Cognitive Level	Minimum Required	Maximum Allowable
Recall	20%	25%
Application/Analysis	75%	80%

The 37 task statements, each of which maps to multiple knowledge statements, are included below.

- Assess case urgency, appropriateness, and logistics
- Evaluate medical records and elicit additional pertinent information
- Elicit medical history
- Conduct family history interview and construct pedigree
- Analyze pedigree
- Integrate medical, laboratory, and pertinent genetic and non-genetic information
- Evaluate the applicability of reference resources, risk assessment tools, position statements, and practice guidelines
- Identify testing strategies
- Select the most appropriate person to test, type of test, and timing of testing
- Analyze results and implications
- Follow up as needed, e.g., results reclassification, new genetic information
- Contract with client
- Assess health literacy to tailor education approach
- Discuss reason for referral
- Discuss diagnosis and natural history
- Describe risk
- Explain testing options
- Review significance of results
- Describe follow up (management)
- Identify patient/family's values and beliefs
- Facilitate informed decision making
- Obtain informed consent
- Adapt psychosocial counseling to client and service model needs
- Perform psychosocial assessment
- Integrate psychosocial support/counseling throughout interactions
- Advocate for clients in medical or non-medical settings
- Identify, evaluate, and provide resources and services
- Comply with ethical/professional practices
- Comply with privacy and confidentiality regulations
- Adhere to the medical and legal requirements of case documentation
- Adhere to legal and institutional requirements (e.g., licensure, credentialing)
- Identify and manage real or perceived conflicts of interests
- Comply with research regulations
- Promote involvement in research
- Educate students, professionals, and public
- Promote new and existing services
- Provide training and supervision