



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%