

GGC Offices

Charleston

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Columbia

1911 Thurmond Mall
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-799-5390 Toll free: 800-679-5390

Florence

Mailing address:
PO Box 4033

Florence, SC 29502

Physical address (by appointment only):

MUSC Health Florence Medical Center
1594 Freedom Blvd Suite C205
Florence, SC 29505

Phone: 843-746-1001 Toll free: 866-588-4363

Greenville

14 Edgewood Drive
Greenville, SC 29605

Phone: 864-250-7944 Toll free: 866-478-4363

Greenwood

106 Gregor Mendel Circle
Greenwood, SC 29646

Phone: 864-941-8100 Toll free: 888-442-4363

How can I get more information?

Please call the offices of the Greenwood Genetic Center if you have any questions or would like more information about our genetic services.

You may also find more information at our website:
www.ggc.org



A Genetic Evaluation

A Guide for Individuals and Families



This brochure is published by the Greenwood Genetic Center and South Carolina Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Genetic Services for Families

The SC Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) and the Greenwood Genetic Center work together to provide genetic services for individuals and families who are dealing with issues such as developmental delay, intellectual disability, autism, or birth defects. The purpose of a genetic evaluation is to find the cause of an individual's disability in order to provide appropriate guidance to all who participate in their care.



What is the cost of a genetic evaluation?

There is no direct charge to you for this evaluation. Private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare will be billed, so please bring all insurance cards to your visit.

What is a genetic evaluation?

A genetic evaluation is a type of doctor visit. Appointments usually take an hour. We will talk about your child's/relative's birth, developmental, medical and family history. Prior to scheduling your appointment, a member of our staff will contact you to gather some of this information so that we are prepared for your visit. On the day of your visit, your child/relative will have a physical examination by a Greenwood Genetic Center provider.

We may want to do some testing to look for the cause of your child's/relative's disability. A blood, saliva, and/or urine sample might be taken at the appointment. If this testing shows the cause of your child's/relative's disability, the genetics team will contact you to explain this diagnosis.

If a diagnosis is made, regular genetic follow-up is needed in order to provide up-to-date information about the condition and health care guidelines.

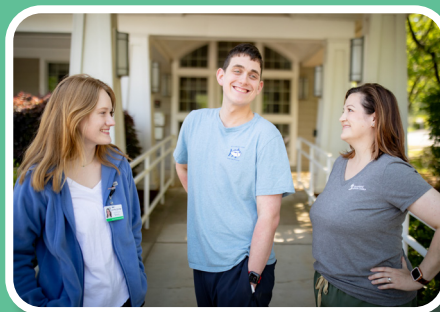
Sometimes the reason for a person's disability cannot be identified during the first visit. It is helpful for these individuals and their families to follow up with the genetics team because new tests often become available and new treatments are being developed for certain conditions. If a follow-up appointment is suggested, our genetics team will contact you when it is time to schedule that appointment.

Why is a genetic evaluation helpful?

Knowing the reason a person has a disability can be helpful for many reasons. Some disabilities can affect a person's health as well as their learning. A diagnosis may help doctors take better care of your child or relative. There may be certain treatments that may benefit your child or relative because of his/her diagnosis. Referrals can be made to doctors who specialize in particular problems related to the diagnosis.

A genetic evaluation can help families understand and deal with emotional issues related to the disability. It can also help the family to receive the support services they may need by connecting them with other families/groups dealing with similar issues.

A diagnosis may also be helpful to the rest of the family. Many times learning problems and disabilities can be passed from parent to child. A genetic evaluation may help to explain the chances for a certain disability to be passed on and what testing is available for other family members.



How do I schedule a genetic evaluation for my child/relative?

Any person who receives OIDD services can be seen for a genetic evaluation. These visits may be held in person in one of the five Greenwood Genetic Center offices, virtually by a telehealth appointment, or through an eVisit.

An eVisit will not require a specific appointment time. You would communicate with your genetics provider through a secure online portal similar to email. They would send questions for you to answer at your convenience and may also request that you upload other information such as recent photos. After reviewing your answers, the medical staff would respond with their recommendations, which may include a plan for genetic testing or the need for an in-person or virtual appointment.

The benefits of an eVisit include:

- It's convenient – No specific appointment time or travel required.
- Your genetics provider will review all relevant information and provide a thorough assessment.
- You can ask questions of your genetics provider.

Your Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist can help you set up the best type of appointment for you.