**Example Letter for Patients to Share Genetic Testing Results for Lynch Syndrome with Family Members**

*Instructions:*

* *Encourage your patient to talk with their family members about Lynch Syndrome testing* ***then*** *share the letter as a reminder of what they discussed.*
* *Edit this letter, as needed. You may choose to refer to your patient as “one of your relatives” throughout the letter to avoid identifying a specific person by name.*
* *If possible****, include with the letter a copy of your patient’s genetic testing results*** *or informational sheet on the particular genetic mutation, so that relatives can share this information with their health care providers.*
* *Remind your patient that this letter only applies to blood relatives and not “in-laws.” Blood relatives include parents, grandparents, children, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. If time permits, you may want to help your patient determine which family members should receive this letter.*

Dear **[xx]**,

Your family member, **[patient name]**,has been diagnosed with an inherited condition called Lynch syndrome, or Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC). People with Lynch syndrome are more likely to get colorectal, endometrial (uterine), ovarian, and other cancers. If someone finds out that they have Lynch Syndrome, they can take steps to lower their chances of getting cancer or the time it takes to find it. Finding cancer earlier can make it easier to treat and allow for more treatment options.

Lynch syndrome runs in families, so this information is important for [**patient name]**’s blood relatives. Lynch syndrome is caused by errors in certain genes (known as mutations). Genetic counseling and testing for Lynch syndrome can be used to find out if you have Lynch syndrome, even if you have never had cancer before. Talk to your doctor about genetic counseling and testing for Lynch syndrome. Genetic testing for Lynch Syndrome may be covered by health insurance and is **only recommended for people over 18 years old**.

You may find it helpful to talk to your doctor about what it would mean to have Lynch syndrome, including ways to lower your risk of cancer or having it diagnosed earlier. Options may include earlier, more frequent, and additional cancer screening and preventive surgery. **If you have Lynch syndrome, it does not mean that you will definitely get cancer.**

The attached document shows the specific mutation that **[patient name]** has. This information is important to share with your doctor.

Although it may be difficult to learn that Lynch syndrome runs in your family, **[patient name]** can now take steps to manage future cancer risks. Your doctor can help you do the same. Please reach out to your healthcare provider if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**[ ]**

Additional resources

* <https://www.cdc.gov/genomics/disease/colorectal_cancer/index.htm>
* [www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lynch-syndrome](http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lynch-syndrome)
* [www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/lynch-syndrome](http://www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/lynch-syndrome)