

GENETIC COUNSELLOR REGISTRATION ADVISORY BOARD

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The Genetic Counsellor Registration Advisory Board (GCRAB) Scope of Practice outlines relevant professional skills, knowledge and the maintenance of updated, evidence based care that prioritises the safety of our patients and their families.

The scope is relevant to roles undertaking direct patient care, as well as roles in management, research, education, policy and strategy. Genetic Counselling is a rapidly evolving and dynamic subspecialty within healthcare and it is recognised that nature and breadth of practice will continue to expand.

The Scope of Practice for Genetic Counsellors should be used with the GCRAB Code of Conduct (05_POL), AGNC Code of Ethics (<https://www.agnc.org.uk/info-education/documents-websites/>), AHCS Good Scientific Practice (<https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/registration/psa-accredited-register/healthcare-science-practitioner-register/standards-rules-guidance/>)

Scope of Practice:

1	Collect and interpret comprehensive client and family information, including medical, psychological and genetic family history.
2	Make appropriate and accurate genetic risk assessments.
3	Discuss the features, natural history, means of diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors, and management of risk for genetic/medical conditions and diseases.
4	Understand the way heredity contributes to the disorder, and the risk of recurrence in at risk relatives.
5	Identify, coordinate, and facilitate informed consent of appropriate genetic/genomic tests and other diagnostic studies as appropriate for the genetic assessment.
6	Use therapeutic counselling frameworks, skills and communication strategies to facilitate informed decision making for clients and families.
7	Facilitate informed decision making for clients and families by providing client centered counselling and evaluate the clients and family's responses in order to assess and support psychosocial coping and adjustment.

8	Identify and utilise community resources that provide medical, educational, financial, and psychosocial support and advocacy; and provide written documentation of medical, genetic, and counselling information for families and health care professionals.
9	Make psychosocial assessments of client need, providing support and referral to other agencies as appropriate.
10	Raise pertinent ethical issues sensitively with clients and families and discuss appropriately with colleagues, committees and experts to provide optimum services for clients and families.
11	Plan, organise and deliver professional and public education in genetic healthcare.
12	Serve as a genetic healthcare resource for professionals and the general public.
13	Liaise with other members of the genetics multidisciplinary team to provide optimum services for clients.
14	Proactively engage in regular counselling supervision that encourages self reflection and continued development of personal and professional practice.
15	Be responsible for accessing avenues for continuous professional development in accordance with GCRAB maintenance of registration guidelines and a high standard of genetic counselling practice.
16	Advocate for the profession of genetic counselling through role modelling high standards of personal and professional behaviour in all interactions.

References

The National Society of Genetic Counselors (2018). National Society of Genetic Counselors Scope of Practice. Online:

http://www.cap.org/apps/docs/statline/pdf/nsgc_genetic_counselor_scope_of_practice.pdf

Scope of Practice: Human Genetics Society of Australasia. Online:

<https://www.hgsa.org.au/documents/item/9588>



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