SFHGTC6

Assess the genetic risk associated with a condition

Overview

This standard is about assessing genetic risk. This might include assessing the likelihood of a person having a genetic condition or a genetic predisposition to a condition, being a carrier of a genetic condition or being at risk of having a baby with a genetic condition. This is usually used to inform clinical management, perhaps by the reassurance associated with a low or population risk, or by appropriate referral for surveillance or further investigation.

Complex risk calculations, which often take into account multiple pieces of information from the pedigree and test results, may require referral to a specialist geneticist. In defined situations, it may be appropriate that genetic risks are calculated by healthcare staff who are not genetic specialists. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure that the family history information has been gathered and recorded according to international guidelines
- P2 ensure that adequate pedigree or family history information is available
- P3 confirm how the suspected condition is usually inherited, using reliable sources or information, and use this information to assist your risk assessment
- P4 assess the likely mode of inheritance in the family from the pattern of affected people
- P5 identify the relationship of the individual to the closest affected or carrier family member
- P6 determine the appropriate risk assessment method
- P7 assess the genetic risk associated with the condition for an individual using appropriate protocols and guidelines where available
- P8 determine the appropriate further action based on the assessment of genetic risk
- P9 act within the limits of your role, responsibility, knowledge and experience, seeking further advice if a pedigree pattern does not fit an expected mode of inheritance

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the factors which determine the genetic risk of an individual including familial risk and/or the impact of environmental factors

K2 genetic conditions, symptoms and clinical signs and inheritance patterns relevant to your area of practice

K3 methods of assessment of genetic risk relevant to your area of practice

K4 the patterns of inheritance for genetic conditions in your area of practice and how specific risks are calculated

K5 the conditions relevant to your area of practice for which empiric risk data are available

K6 the use of protocols and guidelines for management of individuals in your area of practice following genetic risk assessment

K7 the concepts of probability, burden and risk, and the different ways of presenting probability information

Additional information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet people's health and wellbeing needs

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