GENETIC INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIALITY AND USE

Genetic Characteristic means either of the following:

1. Any scientifically or medically identifiable gene or chromosome, or combination or alteration thereof, that is known to be a cause of a disease or disorder in a person or his or her offspring, or that is determined to be associated with a statistically increased risk of development of a disease or disorder, and that is presently not associated with any symptoms of any disease or disorder.

2. Inherited characteristics that may derive from the individual or family member, that are known to be a cause of a disease or disorder in a person or his or her offspring, or that are determined to be associated with a statistically increased risk of development of a disease or disorder, and that are presently not associated with any symptoms of any disease or disorder.

Confidentiality of Genetic Information

Genetic information is confidential. VCHCP staff may not disclose the results of a test for a genetic characteristic to a third party in a manner that identifies or provides identifying characteristics of the person or person’s offspring to whom the test results apply, unless a Consent for Release of Member/Patient Information is signed by the member (or the member’s parent or guardian, if the member is a minor child).

Use of Genetic Information

Genetic information should only be sought or used by Plan staff to arrange for the provision of covered benefits to members. An individual’s medical condition includes his/her genetic characteristics, as defined above. The plan does not discriminate in employment, enrollment, cancellation, non-renewal or in the provision of covered benefits on the basis of an individual’s medical condition or genetic characteristics or those indicated for the person’s offspring.

A. Attachment: None

B. References:

California Civil Code Section 56.17
Health and Safety Code Section 1374.7
Government Code, Section 12926.
C. History

Reviewers: R. Ashby MD, P. Neumann Ins. Adm; Date: 01/01/01
Reviewed/Revised: S. Haas, MD & C. Wilhelmy MD; Date: Aug 2005
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