

ROLE OF THE GENETIC COUNSELOR

Health Care Transitions

Facilitating Successful Health Care Transitions
Across the Life Span

INITIATE

The Transition Engagement conversation is a natural fit for Genetic Counselors. This interaction should start with patients as young as 12, so patients and families are prepared when it's time to transfer to adult care.

ENGAGE

Genetic Counselors have the expertise to engage the patient and family in the transition conversation and in the development of the skills and knowledge needed.

FACILITATE

Genetic Counselors can take the time to participate in this conversation at the level of interaction required; it adds critical elements to the psycho-social and medical history of both the patient and the family.

SUPPORT

A major role for Genetic Counselors in this process is assisting adolescents and their families in finding needed support services and appropriate adult medical professionals.

ENCOURAGE

During the Transition Engagement conversation, the Genetic Counselor encourages autonomy and independence in the adolescent; this also helps the family to envision new possibilities.

LISTEN

Many medical providers see a patient with a genetic condition only as their diagnosis. Actively listening to the patient and family will help the Genetic Counselor to get a full picture of the young person's life, including their hopes and dreams for the future.

EMPOWER

Genetic Counselors can, across time, facilitate the development of an action plan that has opportunities for both the patient and family to proactively engage in appropriate and meaningful actions that lead to successful transitions.