

# GENETIC COUNSELORS:

## PRACTICE-BASED COMPETENCIES

### I. GENETICS EXPERTISE AND ANALYSIS

- 1: Demonstrate and utilize a depth and breadth of understanding and knowledge of genetics and genomics core concepts and principles.
- 2: Integrate knowledge of psychosocial aspects of conditions with a genetic component to promote client well-being.
- 3: Construct relevant, targeted and comprehensive personal and family histories and pedigrees.
- 4: Identify, assess, facilitate, and integrate genetic testing options in genetic counseling practice.
- 5: Assess individuals' and their relatives' probability of conditions with a genetic component or carrier status based on their pedigree, test result(s), and other pertinent information.
- 6: Demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully manage a genetic counseling case.
- 7: Critically assess genetic/genomic, medical and social science literature and information.

### II. INTERPERSONAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL AND COUNSELING SKILLS

- 8: Establish a mutually agreed upon genetic counseling agenda with the client.
- 9: Employ active listening and interviewing skills to identify, assess, and empathically respond to stated and emerging concerns.
- 10: Use a range of genetic counseling skills and models to facilitate informed decision-making and adaptation to genetic risks or conditions.
- 11: Promote client-centered, informed, non-coercive and value-based decision-making.
- 12: Understand how to adapt genetic counseling skills for varied service delivery models.
- 13: Apply genetic counseling skills in a culturally responsive and respectful manner to all clients.

### III. EDUCATION

- 14: Effectively educate clients about a wide range of genetics and genomics information based on their needs, their characteristics and the circumstances of the encounter.
- 15: Write concise and understandable clinical and scientific information for audiences of varying educational backgrounds.
- 16: Effectively give a presentation on genetics, genomics and genetic counseling issues.

### IV. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & PRACTICE

- 17: Act in accordance with the ethical, legal and philosophical principles and values of the genetic counseling profession and the policies of one's institution or organization.
- 18: Demonstrate understanding of the research process.
- 19: Advocate for individuals, families, communities and the genetic counseling profession.
- 20: Support client and community interests in accessing, or declining, social and health services and clinical research.
- 21: Understand the methods, roles and responsibilities of the process of clinical supervision of trainees.
- 22: Accept responsibility for one's physical and emotional health as it impacts on professional performance.