

Key Elements of Genetic Awareness – Checklist to Facilitate the Development of Genetically Aware Policies, Practices, and Research

A genetically aware service setting, educational activity, or research plan recognizes the contribution of genetic factors to health and disease, and their interaction with environmental factors. A genetically aware professional demonstrates basic knowledge of the role genomics plays in the development of diseases, identifies his/her own genomic expertise, and makes appropriate referrals to those with more expertise (CDC competencies, NCHPEG competencies for health professionals). Genetically aware health care builds upon the medical home concept and integrates the concepts of family-centered, culturally and linguistically competent care. These indicators dovetail with the consumer indicators of quality genetic services developed by the Genetic Alliance.

SCORE: ALWAYS (A) , SOMETIMES (S), NEVER (N)

YOUR SCORE	CHECKLIST ITEMS
	Recognizes that genetic information is part of all health information
	Collaborates with families and communities in addressing genetic awareness
	Encourages families to discuss and document family health history with consideration of confidentiality and the psychosocial impact at all life stages
	Shares unbiased and complete information geared to the consumers' needs and culture with families on an ongoing basis
	Links families to consumer-oriented resources, community-based supports, and genetic research information
	Recognizes and honors the contribution of genetic factors to diversity
	Incorporates current genetic information in educational initiatives
	Establishes a mechanism of referral for more in-depth genetic counseling and consultation
	Recognizes the potential impact of differing genetic susceptibilities on research design, outcomes, and guideline development
	Works to address issues of ethical, legal, and social concern, including privacy, access, cost, fairness, and discrimination