

Genetics and Insurance

What you need to know...

Why does it matter?

- Insurance premiums are calculated by assessing your current and projected future health
- Having a genetic condition in the family may increase your premiums or make it difficult to get insurance
- Not all genetic information needs to be disclosed – know your rights to get the best policy



HM Government



ABI Association of British Insurers

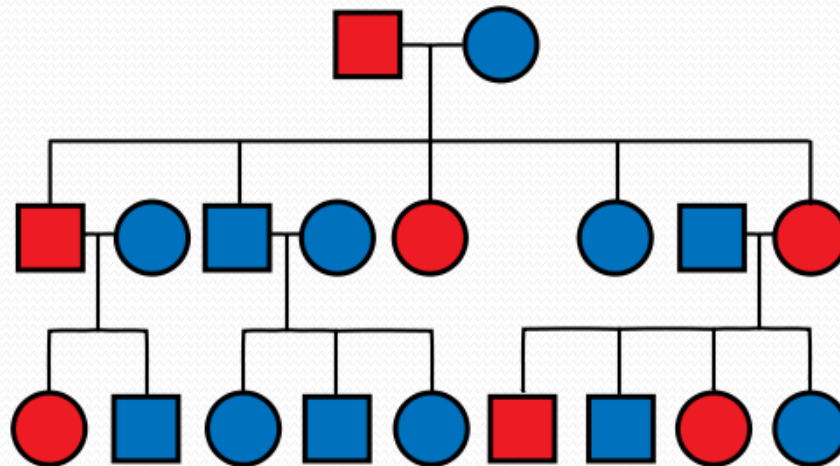
Concordat and Moratorium on Genetics and Insurance

2011

What is affected?

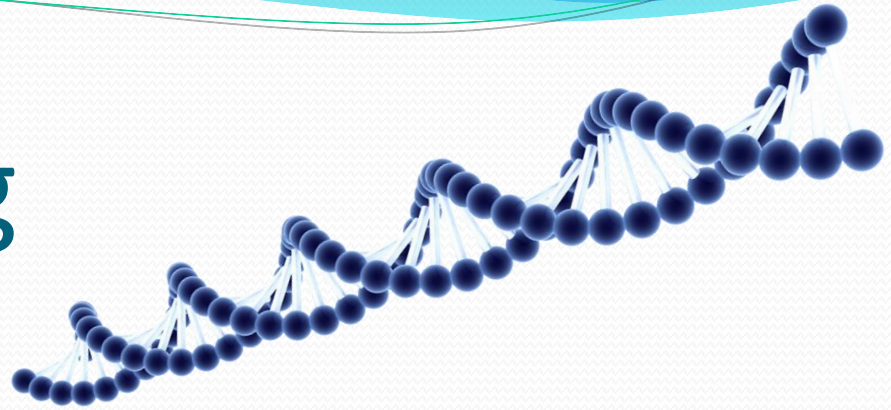
- Life insurance
 - Pays a lump sum to your partner or family if you die
- Income protection insurance
 - Pays a monthly sum if you are unable to work for a prolonged period
- Critical illness insurance
 - Pays a lump sum if you are diagnosed with a critical illness (only specific illnesses are covered)

Family history



- DO disclose
 - Your own existing medical conditions
 - Your family medical history
 - If a known genetic condition runs in your family

Genetic testing



- DO disclose
 - **Diagnostic** genetic test results (if you already had the condition and the genetic test found the cause)
- DON'T disclose
 - **Predictive** genetic test results (if you have no signs of the condition and took the test to find out if you are at risk)*

* Except for predictive genetic tests for Huntington's disease when life insurance cover of more than £500,000 is being applied for

What if I got good news?

- If your genetic test (diagnostic or predictive) was normal, you can CHOOSE to disclose it
- Many insurance companies will take this into account and may remove any loadings or special terms applied to your premium based on your family medical history

What about the future?

- The Moratorium is usually reviewed every 3 years
 - Currently effective until 2019
 - Will be reviewed again in 2016
- If any changes are made, you will have time to review your cover
- Once cover has started, you do not need to disclose any genetic test results, as long as cover is not altered

Do

- Explain your condition, be truthful
- Give details of treatment
- Disclose diagnostic genetic test results
- Disclose a predictive genetic test result if it is in your favour

Don't

- Purposely leave out any information which is asked for as it may void your policy
- Disclose a predictive genetic test result if it shows you are at increased risk
- Disclose family members' predictive genetic test results



Genetic Alliance UK
Supporting. Campaigning. Uniting.

<http://www.geneticalliance.org.uk/insurance.htm>