



EXPANDING NIPT WITHOUT ADDING GENETIC COUNSELORS

A medical center is now offering NIPT testing to all pregnant women, but its clinicians do not have the time to provide pre-test counseling, obtain informed consent, and return results. How My Gene Counsel can help.

A large OB/GYN practice with two prenatal genetic counselors is shifting from offering noninvasive prenatal testing (NIPT) to only women with high-risk pregnancies to offering NIPT to *all* pregnant women. Given that the genetic counselors cannot handle this increased volume, obstetricians will be initiating testing and returning results, with genetic counselors seeing patients with abnormal results. The practice wants to democratize prenatal testing and ensure all patients offered NIPT receive the same level of pre-test education and informed consent. They also need post-test clinical support for busy clinicians, who may not be genetics experts, as well as education for patients.

My Gene Counsel supports obstetrician initiated NIPT in this practice by providing pre-test information about NIPT to patients, thus standardizing testing education and informed consent. Given that OBs may not be genetics experts, My Gene Counsel also provides robust post-test information via Living Lab Reports® for all patients tested and for their clinicians. This facilitates an engaged conversation between clinicians and patients about test results, implications for pregnancy, and next steps.

Patients with abnormal test results are referred for genetic counseling. Though there may be a wait to be seen, patients and clinicians have accurate and understandable information at their fingertips thanks to My Gene Counsel's Living Lab Reports. This supports expanding prenatal testing without the need to hire additional genetic counselors because genetic counselors are able to practice at the top of their scope.

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