

## Patient Information about Hemochromatosis and Iron Overload

Please **CAREFULLY** read this information, and answer the question in the box on this page.

Hemochromatosis is a medical condition that causes the body to store too much iron. It can lead to serious and sometimes fatal health problems such as liver damage and liver cancer, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, or sexual impotence. Hemochromatosis is a condition that can run in families and can be passed from parents to children.

If someone has hemochromatosis, the iron usually builds up in the body over many years before the person gets sick. So, if the condition is found early, it may be possible to prevent many or all of the health problems.

The excess iron can be removed by having blood drawn (like donating blood) on a regular basis. If organ damage has not already occurred, removing the excess iron allows a person with hemochromatosis to have a normal life expectancy.

**A genetic test is now available for risk of hemochromatosis and is being offered to you free of charge.** This test looks to see if you have the type of gene that increases your risk for iron overload. For this test, a small sample of your blood will be taken so that your genes can be examined. If this test shows that you carry one of the genes for iron overload this does not necessarily mean that you have too much iron in your body. Your doctor would need to discuss your results with you, and do some additional medical tests to see if your iron levels are currently unsafe.

**The genetic test for risk of iron overload is offered free of charge at this clinic. Would you like to have this test?**

**Yes      No**

**If you answered YES to the question above, please fill out the YELLOW form.**

**If you answered NO to the question above, please fill out the BLUE form.**

When you have completed our brief questionnaire, please place this in the enclosed envelope. Your answers are confidential, and your name will not be recorded. Thank you.