Guide for Patients, Caregivers and Families

No-cost, confidential genetic testing and confidential genetic counseling for patients suspected of having or clinically diagnosed with hATTR amyloidosis

www.hATTRCompass.com
www.hATTRChangeTheCourse.com
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A Guide for Patients, Caregivers and Families to the hATTR Compass™ Program

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>About the hATTR Compass Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>What does hereditary amyloidosis mean for you and your family?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>hATTR amyloidosis symptom checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Why participate in genetic testing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Talking with your family about genetic testing for hATTR amyloidosis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Akcea Therapeutics and Ambry Genetics are partnering to offer no-cost, confidential genetic testing and confidential genetic counseling to patients suspected of having or have been clinically diagnosed with hATTR amyloidosis through the hATTR Compass Program.

The hATTR Compass Program is designed to:
• Help accelerate or confirm the diagnosis of hATTR amyloidosis
• Provide support and resources to patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals throughout the genetic testing process
• Empower patients and their healthcare professionals to make informed decisions about their health care

Who can get genetic testing?
• Patients 18 years and older who have a family history of hATTR amyloidosis
• Patients 18 years and older who are experiencing symptoms of hATTR amyloidosis

Questions about genetic testing?
Genetic counselors are available at no cost, to speak with you on the phone before and after your tests.
• Before your test, a genetic counselor can review your goals, speak with you about any concerns you may have, and help you decide if testing is right for you.
• After your test, a genetic counselor is available to discuss your results, help you make a plan for your next steps, and answer any questions you may have.
• To learn more, ask your doctor to connect you with a genetic counselor at PWNHealth, the partner working with the hATTR Compass Program.

How do I order hATTR Compass Program genetic testing and counseling?
1. If you are interested in joining, you or your doctor can sign up online. To sign up and order your free hATTR Compass Program genetic testing kit, visit www.hATTRCompass.com
   Tip: Don’t forget to order confidential genetic counseling.
2. Next, you’ll be asked to provide a blood or saliva sample that you or your doctor will submit for genetic testing.
3. Your doctor will receive your test results within 2-4 weeks after you send it in and share with you.

We’re here to help you every step of the way. If you have any questions about the hATTR Compass Program, contact us at +1 (949) 900-5500.

The hATTR Compass Program is currently available in the United States and Canada. While Akcea provides financial support for this program, all tests and services are private and performed by independent third parties.

At no time does Akcea receive information about you or your test results.

To participate in the hATTR Compass Program, visit www.hATTRCompass.com
Hereditary diseases are genetic disorders where a gene change (called a genetic mutation) is passed down through family members. It is the passed down mutation that can cause disease. In hereditary ATTR amyloidosis (hATTR), a gene mutation changes the structure of the transthyretin (TTR) amyloid protein, causing it to fold incorrectly, stick together and build-up throughout the body.1

hATTR amyloidosis is a severe, rare and fatal disease which progressively robs people of their independence and dignity.1

TTR amyloid fibrils form when the structure of a normally dissolvable TTR protein misfolds.1

The misfolded proteins are sticky and clump together in tissues and between the body’s cells to form amyloid deposits.2

Amyloid deposits cause disease by damaging the structure and the function of the organs where they are found. They can affect almost any body system including the nerves, heart and GI tract.3

It is not always easy to determine whether a condition in a family is inherited. If you have a family history of hATTR amyloidosis, consider whether genetic testing through the hATTR Compass Program is right for you. The hATTR Compass Program is a no-cost, confidential genetic testing and confidential genetic counseling program for patients suspected of having or have been clinically diagnosed with hATTR amyloidosis.

For more information on genetic testing and genetic counseling, please visit www.hATTRCompass.com

hATTR amyloidosis symptom checklist

Since hATTR amyloidosis can manifest in many ways and with a broad range of symptoms, it can be hard for doctors and patients to recognize. Patients often present with a cluster of one, two, three or more red-flag symptoms.

If you are experiencing two or more symptoms related to hATTR amyloidosis, consider whether genetic testing through the hATTR Compass Program is right for you. The hATTR Compass Program is a no-cost, confidential genetic testing and confidential genetic counseling program for patients suspected of having or have been clinically diagnosed with hATTR amyloidosis.

Where can I find more information about genetic testing?

- Your Doctor
- Genetic Counselor ([www.pwnhealth.com](http://www.pwnhealth.com))
- Amyloidosis Research Consortium ([www.ARCI.org](http://www.ARCI.org))
- Amyloidosis Support Group ([www.amyloidosisupport.org](http://www.amyloidosisupport.org))
- Akcea Patient Advocacy (email: patientadvocacy@akceatax.com)

As with any disease, especially with hereditary diseases, early diagnosis is key. The hATTR Compass Program was developed to fulfill an unmet need, providing best-in-class genetic testing for patients who wish to know if they have the mutated TTR gene. Providing access to no-cost, confidential genetic testing and confidential genetic counseling will allow you and your family to make more informed decisions about your health care.

If you are experiencing symptoms or have a family history of hATTR amyloidosis, speak to your doctor about whether genetic testing is right for you and your testing options.

The hATTR Compass Program allows you to Map Your Genetic Journey.

To participate in the hATTR Compass Genetics Program, visit [www.hATTRCompass.com](http://www.hATTRCompass.com)

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**Why participate in genetic testing?**

It is not always easy to determine whether a condition or disease in a family is passed down from parent to child and genetic tests can help. Genetic testing uses laboratory methods to look for mutations, or changes, in your genes. Genetic tests help to identify increased risks of health problems or help to choose the best treatment.

Through genetic testing, you can learn if you carry gene changes known to be associated with hereditary amyloidosis.

Some benefits of genetic testing include:

- Diagnose disease
- Identify gene changes that are responsible for an already diagnosed disease
- Guide doctors in deciding on the best medicine or treatment to use for certain individuals
- Identify gene changes that may increase the risk to develop a disease
- Identify gene changes that could be passed on to children

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   Last Accessed May 25, 2018. [http://amyloidosissupport.org/support_groups/fam_isabell_attr.pdf](http://amyloidosissupport.org/support_groups/fam_isabell_attr.pdf)
Talking with your family about genetic testing for hATTR amyloidosis

It can be hard to talk with loved ones about genetic testing for hATTR amyloidosis. For some people, genetic test results serve as a relief, removing some of the uncertainty surrounding their health. For others, learning that you or someone in your family has or is at risk for a disease can be scary. Some people can also feel guilty, angry, anxious, or depressed when they find out their results.

As with any serious family discussion, there are benefits and risks to discussing a serious topic, such as genetic testing.

Potential benefits of talking with your family about genetic testing include:

• Helping family members understand their risk for hATTR amyloidosis
• Helping family members watch out for signs of hATTR amyloidosis and start screening earlier
• Helping family members understand the need for tests or treatments
• Talking about yours and your families’ risk or diagnosis of hATTR amyloidosis can help release pent-up feelings

Potential risks to keep in mind when talking to your family about genetic testing:

• Learning that you or someone in your family has or is at risk for a disease can be scary
• Family members may find it upsetting to get genetic testing if other family members have already died of hATTR amyloidosis
• Having a gene or passing the gene on to children can also lead to guilt or anger

Talking with your family about your family health history can help you stay healthy. Below are a few tips to get you started.

1. Educate yourself on hATTR amyloidosis. It is important to gain an in-depth understanding of the disease so you can discuss your potential symptoms and path to diagnosis with your family. The more you know about the condition the better you will be able to answer questions your family may have. Learn more at www.hATTRChangeTheCourse.com

2. Collect information about your family health history of hATTR amyloidosis, and share this information with other family members. By sharing your family health history, you can help family members understand why your disease might affect them. Be sure to consult "What does hereditary ATTR amyloidosis mean for you and your family?" (page 5) for helpful information.

Tips: Try to recall if any family members has one or more of the symptoms of hATTR amyloidosis, as this may help to diagnose the hereditary aspect of the disease.

3. If you have received genetic testing, be prepared to share your experience and results with your family. Knowing that you have been through the process can help family members in their decision about genetic testing. Refer to information about the hATTR Compass Genetics Program (page 3).

Tips: Remember through the hATTR Compass Genetics Program genetic counselors are available to talk about your genetic testing results and what they could mean for your family. Consider referring family members to speak with a genetic counselor or their doctor if they have questions or concerns about testing that you can’t answer.*

4. If you are still considering genetic testing, have an honest conversation with your family about what your testing and results could mean for them. If possible, consider getting tested together as a family. Genetic testing can take an emotional toll and having the support of family is important.

Remember, although this may be a difficult conversation to have with your family, there are many resources, people and organizations that can help you through the process.

• Your Doctor
• Genetic Counselor (www.pwnhealth.com)
• Amyloidosis Research Consortium (www.ARCI.org)
• Amyloidosis Support Group (www.amyloidosisupport.org)
• Akcea Patient Advocacy (email: patientadvocacy@akceatx.com)

* The hATTR Compass Program will cover the cost of two genetic counseling sessions (pre- and post- testing). Any additional sessions will be the responsibility of the patient.