

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As you may know, I recently underwent genetic counseling and genetic testing. Through this process, I was found to have a hereditary colon cancer syndrome called \_\_\_\_\_ (Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)/Attenuated Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (AFAP)). \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP) is an inherited condition; this means it is passed down from one generation to the next. \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP) is caused by a faulty gene that normally protects the body from cancer. \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP) greatly increases my risk of developing colon and rectal cancer. \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP) also increases my risk of developing cancer in my thyroid, small intestine and, to a lesser extent, my pancreas, stomach, and central nervous system. There is also an increased risk of children developing a rare childhood liver tumor.

There are other effects that can arise from \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP) like bone growths (osteomas), benign eye tumors called CHRPE's, extra or missing teeth, painless lumps under the skin called sebaceous cysts, and an invasive type of tumor called a desmoid. Fortunately, there are ways to reduce the risk of cancer, which is why knowing I have this condition is so valuable.

My genetics counselor and I discussed the importance of this information for my family members. I learned that YOU, too, may be at risk for \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP). It is possible that other people in our family also have this mutation. My genetics counselor recommends that my children, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins on my \_\_\_\_\_ (mother's/father's) side of the family consider this information and seek genetic counseling for \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP).

My genetics counselor and I recommend that you work with your healthcare provider to discover what this means for you and your family. If you choose to be tested yourself, the copy of my test results that I included will help in determining which test is appropriate for you.

Genetic testing can be coordinated through genetic counselors. Visit [HCCtakesGuts.org](http://HCCtakesGuts.org) to learn more about \_\_\_\_\_ (FAP/AFAP), genetic counseling, genetic testing, and how to locate a genetic counselor in your area.

Sincerely,