Haemochromatosis Australia
Inherited Iron overload disorder

www.ha.org.au
1300 019 028

Hello

Someone in your family has been diagnosed with haemochromatosis.

Because you are related by birth, you could have inherited the same genes that cause the condition. You probably should be tested too.

Haemochromatosis is a common genetic condition passed from parents to child.

People with haemochromatosis may absorb too much iron from the food we eat.
If it is not detected and treated it can cause serious health problems over time.

The good news is
- If you are diagnosed early you can lead a normal, healthy life.
- Tests for haemochromatosis are simple blood tests ordered by your doctor.
- Treatment is simple, cheap and very effective.

Most people do not feel sick during the early stages of haemochromatosis so they don't know they have the condition. It may not show up in normal iron tests from your doctor, so it is best to:
- tell your doctor you have haemochromatosis in your family and
- ask to have 'iron studies' tests and the 'HFE gene 'test done.

We have included some information about tests on the back of this letter.
Take the letter with you when you visit your doctor.

People can have symptoms at any age. The first signs people sometimes feel are;
- feeling tired all the time
- pain in your joints.

If it is not treated, haemochromatosis can cause more serious health problems including organ damage.

So please don't ignore this letter. Make an appointment with your doctor soon.

See the back of this letter for information about how you can find out more about haemochromatosis.

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WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HAEMOCHROMATOSIS?

	Our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/haemochromatosisaust *2-minute animated video* https://youtu.be/MxGUAafNSnI
	www.ha.org.au
	INFO LINE 1300 019 028
	Download **Haemochromatosis Your Questions Answered** booklet from Resources page on our website www.ha.org.au/moreinfo Or Call the INFO LINE 1300 019 028 to order a copy

INFORMATION FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

You can find out more about testing for haemochromatosis in the
- Medicare Benefits Schedule (item 73317) or
- RACGP Red Book (Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice 10th edition)
- RACGP Genomics in general practice, Disease specific topics, Hereditary haemochromatosis

Iron Studies Test
Transferrin saturation and serum ferritin are the tests that tell you about iron levels.

HFE Gene Test
- The HFE gene test will identify whether a patient has the genetic risk of haemochromatosis.
- It does not tell you about iron levels.
- A Medicare Rebate is available for a brother, sister, parent or child of the person affected.
- For other relatives, the lab charges a private fee.

Item 73317:
Detection of the C282Y genetic mutation of the HFE gene and, if performed, detection of other mutations for haemochromatosis where:
a) the patient has an elevated transferrin saturation or elevated serum ferritin on testing of repeated specimens; or
b) the patient has a first degree relative with haemochromatosis; or
c) the patient has a first degree relative with homozygosity for the C282Y genetic mutation or with compound heterozygosity for recognised genetic mutations for haemochromatosis.