
SELECTING AND EVALUATING TOOLS FOR COLLECTION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

There are a number of tools available to aid in family history collection and family history risk assessment, with different strengths and limitations. You should pick the tool that best fits the needs of your practice.

Once you have established your goals for family history collection and risk assessment and considered your ideal workflow, it is time to determine what systems or tools you will need to aid in collection and/or risk assessment. Some EHRs provide robust family history collection systems, including pedigree generation, while the family history documentation capacity in others will be limited. In these cases, practices may consider identifying an external tool to collect the necessary information for risk assessment, or to run risk algorithms automatically. Selecting an external tool may be complex, especially if you are seeking to integrate with or adapt features of your EHR. It may involve searching out vendors who offer a solution that will do what you need to fulfill your goals at a price that fits your budget.

Start by taking inventory of what you want the tool to do. This is the point at which you review your goals for family history collection and risk assessment ([page 17](#)), as well as the workflows that you expect to have after the new process is implemented ([page 29](#)). If you want a risk assessment tool that ties to screening guidelines, you may want to review [page 35](#), Identifying Screening Protocols, before you begin evaluating tools. Planning your workflow before you select family history tools may help you choose a tool or system that can support the workflows you need, but these activities can also be planned in parallel.

PARTICIPANTS

Implementation lead, stakeholders

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Goals for family history; Family History Tool Features Worksheet

BARRIERS

Time, cost, competing priorities, lack of validated tools for the practice environment

LEARN MORE

[Global Alliance Family History Tool Inventory](#)

[Review and Comparison of Electronic Patient-Facing Family Health History Tools](#)

STEPS

- 1** Begin to find out what your options are by examining some example tools and reviewing the features shown in the Family History Tool Features Worksheet. Once you have a sense of the features available, select those that are required to enable your desired workflows. This would constitute your “must-have” list of features.
- 2** Generate a list of tools you will initially evaluate based on key features important to the practice, for example, an electronic collection questionnaire, or a freely available tool. You can start with tools identified in the Family History Tool Features Worksheet and add additional ones through your own search. Include your EHR on your list of tools to evaluate if appropriate.
- 3** Test your short list tools to evaluate what will work best for your practice.
- 4** Select a tool, or a set of tools, to use in your practice.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Additional considerations when evaluating a family history tool

Your patient population's health literacy and language may impact required features for a family history tool. Additionally, baseline risk factors in your population may influence their needs for a tool. A tool that considers patient race and ethnicity as part of risk assessment may be important in some populations, such as those with a high proportion of African Americans.

Consider evaluating tools separately for collection and risk assessment needs. You may find that combining two tools is a better solution for your practice than just using one of the currently available tools.

If you can't find a tool that addresses all of your "must have" features, you may also need to widen your search or reevaluate your desired features, and rank them in order of importance to your patients, your office, and your goals.

If you have decided to pursue a tool that integrates with your EHR system, rather than stand-alone, evaluating and selecting a tool can be more complicated, and you may need to work with a Health IT expert to determine how to customize a solution for your practice, which is beyond the scope of this toolkit.

FAMHX TOOL FEATURES WORKSHEET

To download the spreadsheet and navigate to the tools: <https://tinyurl.com/ycqeko6h>

Tool Name	Collection Features				Risk Assessment						Scope			Other				
	Collection of all 1st- and 2nd-degree relatives	Patient entered collection	Electronic questionnaire	Paper questionnaire	Includes risk assessment (vs. just a collection tool)	Electronic risk assessment	Stratification to 3 categories: average, increased, high	Stratification to 2 categories: average, increased/high	Links to provider management recommendations	Includes personal as well as family history risks	Assessment of multiple cancers beyond CRC	Assessment of non-cancer conditions	Free	Spanish/ other language versions available	Validated for primary care	Maintained technology and clinical content	EHR integration	
Check the "must have" features for your practice:	X	X	X		X								X					
Does It Run in the Family?	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	n/a	NO	n/a	NO	NO	n/a	n/a	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Family Health History Workbook	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	n/a	NO	n/a	NO	NO	n/a	n/a	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
AMA Adult Family History Form	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	n/a	NO	n/a	NO	NO	n/a	n/a	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Family History Questionnaire	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	n/a	NO	n/a	NO	NO	n/a	n/a	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
My Family Health Portrait	YES	YES	YES	YES	PARTIAL	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
It Runs in My Family	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	n/a	NO	n/a	NO	NO	n/a	n/a	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
MyLegacy	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	
Family Healthware	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
MeTree	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	
Myriad Family History Tool	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Progeny/Ambry	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	PARTIAL	NO	NO	YES	YES	
CancerGene Connect/Invitae	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	
CancerIQ	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
CRA Health	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	PARTIAL	YES	NO	YES	YES	
NCI CRC Risk Assessment Tool	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
MMRPro	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
PREMMS	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
MMRPredict	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
MyRisk Hereditary Cancer Questionnaire	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Columbia University 3-question survey	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Families Sharing Health Assessment and Risk Evaluation (SHARE) workbook	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
User-friendly Lynch syndrome risk assessment tool	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
University of Michigan 5-question survey	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Simple Family History Screening Tool for CRC (See Appendix)	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	
CRC Risk Assessment Checklist (See Appendix)	NO	NO	NO	n/a	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	

Instructions

- Identify the "must have" features for your practice, from the table above and others important to you.
Collection of 1st and 2nd degree relatives, patient-entered collection, electronic questionnaire option, includes risk assessment, free
- Use the Family History Tool Table to identify available tools that meet your criteria. Write down the names of your top tools below.
- Test your list of tools to evaluate what will work best for your practice.

- Tool 1: *My Family Health Portrait*
 Tool 2: *Myriad Family History Tool*
 Tool 3: *Progeny/Ambry*
 Tool 4: *CancerGene Connect/Invitae*
 Tool 5: *CRA Health*