What can I do?

If a couple has a known family history of an autosomal recessive condition it is recommended that they contact their GP or midwife who can refer them to their local genetics centre where they can discuss their situation and tests that are available.

If you have any questions or require more information you can contact:

Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine
Genetic Medicine
6th Floor
Saint Mary's Hospital
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9WL
Tel: (0161) 276 6506
8.30 am – 5.00 pm Monday to Friday
Fax: (0161) 276 6145

What does it mean if we marry within the family?

Information for patients

No Smoking Policy

The NHS has a responsibility for the nation’s health.

Protect yourself, patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted within any of our hospital buildings or grounds.

The Manchester Stop Smoking Service can be contacted on
Tel: (0161) 205 5998 (www.stopsmokingmanchester.co.uk).

Translation and Interpretation Service

It is our policy that family, relatives or friends cannot interpret for patients. Should you require an interpreter ask a member of staff to arrange it for you.
There is more than one type of genetic disorder. Consanguinity only increases the risk of autosomal recessive disorders. This means that some medical problems are more common in the children of cousin parents.

**What is the risk of having a child with problems?**

If parents are not related they have a risk of about 2 in 100 (2%) of having a child with health problems or a disability.

If parents are first cousins that risk is doubled to about 4 in 100 (4%).

The more distantly the parents are related the lower the risk of having a child with an autosomal recessive disorder.

When there is no family history of a recessive disorder most children will be healthy. However if there is a tradition of cousin marriages going back generations then the couple will have a higher risk of having a child with an autosomal recessive disorder.

Why ask if we are related?

Everyone carries several changed genes. A couple who were related before they were married are more likely to have the same changed genes. This is because they have both inherited some of their genes from their shared relatives.

In the case of first cousins, both of them could have inherited the same changed gene from one of the grandparents they share.