





# Frequently asked questions

## 1. What are the chances that Foundation Medicine® will find a relevant genomic alteration?

It is impossible to predict which patient's cancer will have a genomic alteration. That is why Foundation Medicine's comprehensive profiling includes all types of alterations in all the genes currently known to be involved in cancer, to make sure nothing is missed. Depending on the type of mutation and our available knowledge, the report may highlight approved therapies, therapy approved in another tumour type, or a clinical trial. However, not all of the genomic alterations that have been identified to date have corresponding potential treatments.

In some cases, treatments may not be available for your specific disease, or trials targeting your type of cancer may not be available in your location.

Also your doctor may recommend alternative treatment based on other factors which the report does not look at. For example side effects of some treatments may mean they are not suitable for you.

## 2. Does it matter what kind of cancer I have or how advanced the cancer is?

FoundationOne® CDx, FoundationOne® Liquid CDx and FoundationOne® Heme are designed to analyse any type of solid tumour or cancer of the blood respectively, regardless of where the cancer is found in your body, or how advanced it is.

#### 3. What if my report shows no alterations?

There are cases where no genomic alteration can be found. This means that your cancer is not caused by any of the genomic alterations that have already been discovered. The underlying genomic cause of your cancer may still be uncharacterised, or not yet published in the scientific literature. However, this result does tell your doctor that the use of certain targeted therapies may not be beneficial for you.

## 4. Will I need to have another biopsy taken for the genomic profiling?

Comprehensive Genomic Profiling with Foundation Medicine® can be run on a tissue sample from an earlier biopsy of either the primary tumour, or cancer cells that have spread to other parts of your body. If there is not enough tissue left from an earlier biopsy to run the analysis, a new biopsy may need to be taken. Your doctor may also recommend a new biopsy to obtain a more recent sample. If obtaining a new biopsy is not possible, your doctor will discuss with you what your options are.

### 5. Will this profile identify the best treatment for me?

Only you and your doctor can identify the best treatment for you. However, because Foundation Medicine® profiles look for all types of alterations in all genes currently known to be involved in cancer, you can be confident that if an alteration is present in your tissue sample, there is a strong chance that Foundation Medicine will detect it. The profile may identify potential avenues of treatment you can explore with your doctor. It is important to understand that the profile may not identify a currently available therapy or trial in New Zealand. Also, based on other factors such as safety and side effects, an available therapy may not be suitable for you.

# 6. Can Foundation Medicine® predict if chemotherapy will work for me?

No. Comprehensive Genomic Profiling is not designed to predict how your cancer will respond to chemotherapy. However, Foundation Medicine® profiling can help your doctor to potentially match the genomic alterations present in your cancer with a treatment that can specifically target this cancer type. These can be either registered treatments or those being investigated in clinical trials. Response to a particular therapy is a multifactorial assessment and requires information such as previously administered treatment options, performance status, and tolerability of medication. Therefore, this decision is best made by your doctor.

# 7. Can Foundation Medicine® predict if a mutation was genetically inherited (germline)? Can Germline Mutations be detected for family members?

While Foundation Medicine® profiling can detect many genetic alterations, it cannot specify whether your specific genomic alteration was inherited (germline) or acquired over time. For example, your profile may indicate that you may have a rare genetic mutation, but it can't determine if you have inherited this mutation or acquired it over time. Foundation Medicine® profiling is designed to interrogate all known genomic mutations associated with human cancers regardless of whether they have been inherited or not. If you and your family would like to determine whether your specific cancer type is inherited, you will need to request a separate germline test. Your Foundation Medicine® report will indicate whether your genomic alteration has been associated with germline cancerpredisposition syndromes, which may help your decision of whether to proceed with further testing.





# Discuss FoundationOne® with a Specialist

Speak to your oncologist about FoundationOne® and how it may be able to help you and your treatment plan. Alternatively, contact one of the private treatment providers below to discuss your options.

# Private Treatment Providers

#### **AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND**

#### **Canopy Cancer Care**

121 Bank Street, Whangarei www.canopycancercare.co.nz

#### **Canopy Cancer Care**

213 Shakespeare Road, Takapuna, Auckland www.canopycancercare.co.nz

#### **Canopy Cancer Care**

98 Mountain Rd, Epsom, Auckland www.canopycancercare.co.nz

#### **Harbour Cancer Centre**

212 Wairau Road, Glenfield, Auckland www.harbourcancer.co.nz

#### **Auckland Oncology**

125 Remuera Road, Remuera, Auckland www.aucklandoncology.co.nz

#### **WAIKATO**

#### **Salutis Care**

3 Thackeray Street, Hamilton www.salutiscare.nz

#### **BAY OF PLENTY**

#### **Canopy Cancer Care**

850 Cameron Rd, Tauranga www.canopycancercare.co.nz

#### **Canopy Cancer Care**

58 Otonga Road Rotorua www.canopycancercare.co.nz

#### **PALMERSTON NORTH**

#### **Crest Hospital Palmerston North**

21 Carroll Street, Palmerston North www.cresthospital.co.nz

#### **WELLINGTON**

#### **Bowen Icon Cancer Centre**

Level B3, Bowen Specialist Medical Centre 98 Churchill Drive, Crofton Downs, Wellington www.boweniconcancercentre.co.nz

#### **NELSON**

#### **Manuka Street Hospital**

36 Manuka Street, Nelson www.manukastreet.org.nz

#### **CHRISTCHURCH**

#### St George's Cancer Care Centre

131 Leinster Road, Strowan, Christchurch www.stgeorgescancercarecentre.org.nz

#### **DUNEDIN**

#### **Mercy Cancer Care**

72 Newington Avenue, Maori Hill, Dunedin www.mercyhospital.org.nz

Healthcare Professionals can visit www.foundationmedicine.co.nz for more information and to order a genomic profile.





# FoundationOne® CDx, FoundationOne® Liquid CDx and FoundationOne® Heme Consumer Information Summary

#### Description

FoundationOne® CDx, FoundationOne® Liquid CDx and FoundationOne® Heme are genomic tests that help you and your doctor understand the changes in your cancer's genes which may be promoting your cancer's growth. These tests are known as Comprehensive Genomic Profiles.

- FoundationOne® CDx and FoundationOne® Liquid CDx are profiles used for solid tumours like lung cancer or skin cancer.
- FoundationOne® Heme is the profile used for blood and lymph cancers like leukaemias, lymphomas, and myelomas; and sarcomas.

#### Use

A sample of your tumour or blood is sent to the Foundation Medicine® laboratory in the US. After two to three weeks, your doctor will receive a report containing the profiling results for your tumour sample. The report contains a summary of possible targeted treatments, treatment approaches or available clinical trials. You and your doctor can then consider the treatment options that suit you best.

#### **Warnings and Precautions**

FoundationOne® CDx, FoundationOne® Liquid CDx and FoundationOne® Heme profiling provide information about changes to your cancer's genes.

- FoundationOne® profiles do not provide information about your inherited genetic alterations (passed down from generation to generation in families).
- Results may show one or more genomic alterations that are "actionable". This means that there may be treatments available that target your specific type of cancer. There may also be clinical trials that are investigating therapies that target your specific type of cancer. However, it is also possible that the profiles will not reveal the cause of your disease or help identify possible treatments.
- These profiles do not explore every possible change or alteration that may exist and the technology may not identify all changes related to your individual cancer.
- There is a small possibility of errors.
- You may learn medical information about yourself that you did not expect, including learning of additional diagnoses or a change in your condition, which may or may not be treatable and may cause you distress.
- It is important for you to know that because genetic information is involved, it is possible that the results of your
  profile could impact your ability to obtain life, disability or long-term care insurance.

Speak to your oncologist about FoundationOne CDx, FoundationOne® Liquid CDx and FoundationOne® Heme and whether comprehensive genomic profiling may be able to help you. More information about Foundation Medicine® comprehensive genomic profiles can be found at www.mycancerisunique.co.nz.

#### mycancerisunique.co.nz

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