Index case reference number: ………………………..

To:   Relatives of (name of patient)

Dear relative,

Re:   (name of index patient)

          Problem:  (Name of condition)

Genetic change causing this: ………………..

I have asked your relative, XXXX, to pass this letter on to you.  He/she has agreed that the information in this letter can be shared with you and with doctors or other healthcare staff involved in your healthcare.

A member of your family has been diagnosed with XXXXX. Someone with this condition typically develops clinical symptoms with ………..…….. The condition is usually caused by a change in a gene, which can be inherited down a family through the DNA. The same gene change may be present in other members of the family even if they have not yet been diagnosed with the condition. There is a 1 in 2 chance (50%) for each son or daughter of someone with the gene change that they also inherit this.

If someone knows that they have inherited the gene change, it may be possible for them to avoid developing some of the clinical symptoms. It may also mean that they would know whether their children or grandchildren could also be at risk.

As you are a blood relative of XXX, you and/or your children may be at risk of this condition. We would therefore recommend that you ask for an appointment with your doctor to discuss this, and take this letter with you to that appointment.  Your doctor can then refer you to a genetic clinic to discuss this in more detail, if you wish. If so, we would recommend that your doctor makes a copy of this letter to accompany the referral, so that the exact genetic details are also made available.

If you would like further general information on genetics and inheritance, or on the specific condition in your family, you may like to search educational sites on the Internet using the search terms: *Autosomal dominant inheritance* or …………..(condition name). Suggested sites could include:Genetic Alliance UK [http://www.geneticalliance.org.uk/docs/eurogentest/English/dominant-pub.pdf]

If you or your doctor have other immediate questions, I would be happy to answer these for you; please contact:……………………………………, quoting also the reference number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely        ……………………………………………