

BRCA1 GENE, GENETIC TESTING AND INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION

1 Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., an international health care
2 provider and the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United
3 States, applauds the joint National Institutes for Health and Hadassah Hospital study which
4 found a particularly high incidence of a mutation of the "BRCA1" breast cancer gene in
5 Ashkenazi Jewish women. We believe that this important discovery will be essential in the early
6 treatment of the disease in our community.

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8 Hadassah is nonetheless concerned that this new genetic information or individuals' requests for
9 genetic counseling services may result in higher health insurance premiums, changes in terms or
10 conditions, or outright denial or cancellation of coverage. Hadassah opposes such insurance
11 discrimination and strongly supports current legislative efforts like H.R. 2748, the "Genetic
12 Information Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance Act of 1995."