

The PHASER Program

Pharmacogenomic (PGx) Testing for Veterans



What is Pharmacogenomics (PGx)?

Pharmacogenomics uses information from a person's genes to understand how they respond to medicines.

- Genes are parts of our DNA that provide instructions on how your body develops and functions.
- Everyone has small differences in their genes.
- Because of this, people may respond differently to medicines.

The VA PGx Test

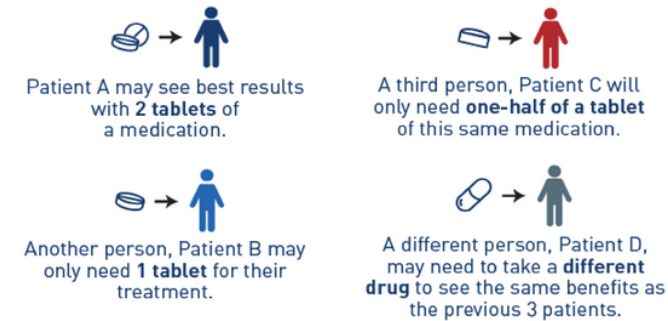
- The PHASER program supports PGx testing for Veterans.
- The VA PGx test is a genetic test for medicines commonly used by Veterans.
- Along with other medical information, your PGx test results help your provider determine if there is a better dose or type of medicine for you.

Benefits of PGx Testing

Knowing about how your genes affect medicines can help your healthcare team:

- Decide which medicines and doses may work better for you.
- Help avoid side effects caused by medicines.

Personalized Medicine



How Do We Perform PGx Testing?

Your provider will discuss and answer your questions about:

- What the PGx test results may find
- What happens to your sample after testing
- Your privacy
- Benefits, limitations, and risks

The test requires one tube of blood. It can take up to two weeks for your healthcare team to get results and add them to your VA medical record.

Limitations of PGx Testing

1. Genetics only tells us part of the story. Other things like age, overall health, other medicines you take, and body size also affect how you respond to medicines.
2. The VA PGx test does not test for all genes, but only certain genes that we know affect selected medicines.
3. There may be other medicines you are taking that are affected by genes that we do not test for.



Are There Harms From PGx Testing?

- The risk is low, like other tests that require blood draws.
- The medicine recommended by your PGx test may be more expensive if it is not preferred by the VA.
- You might receive an unexpected test result describing a risk for a medical problem.
- Your VA healthcare team will work with you to manage your test results.

Privacy of Your PGx Results

Your PGx test results will be kept confidential within the VA and will only be shared with your permission or if there is a court order.

**For more information,
please visit the
following sites:**

VA PGx website:

<https://www.cancer.va.gov/phaser.asp>

**Note: PHASER testing has expanded access to all VA patients. A cancer diagnosis is not needed.*

National Institute of Health:

<https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/Pharmacogenomics>



VA



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