

Risks

The physical risks of testing are low— like other tests that require a blood draw. These risks include fainting, pain or bruising at the site of puncture. It is possible that the treatment recommendation based on the test results may include drugs that cost more or not covered by the VA or your insurance. Be sure to discuss this issue with your doctor.

Federal law protects patients from genetic discrimination by your insurance or employers. This law is called GINA or the “Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act”. The VHA also has rules that forbid discrimination based on protected genetic information. A positive PGx test result should not be interpreted as a pre-existing condition.

Additional information about genetic discrimination and other risks can be found on the PHASER website at:
<https://www.cancer.va.gov/PHASER.asp>

If you have questions or are interested in PHASER PGx testing, [share this brochure with your VA health care provider](#). They can get more information about PHASER and order the test by using the “Pharmacogenetic Note” in the VA electronic medical record.

What will the results mean for my children or siblings?

Genetic material is shared between family members. It is possible that if you are found to have a genetic change in one of the genes tested in the PGx test that some of your relatives may also have the same change.

For more information, or to share your interest in getting PGx testing at your local VA site, please visit us on our website at:

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



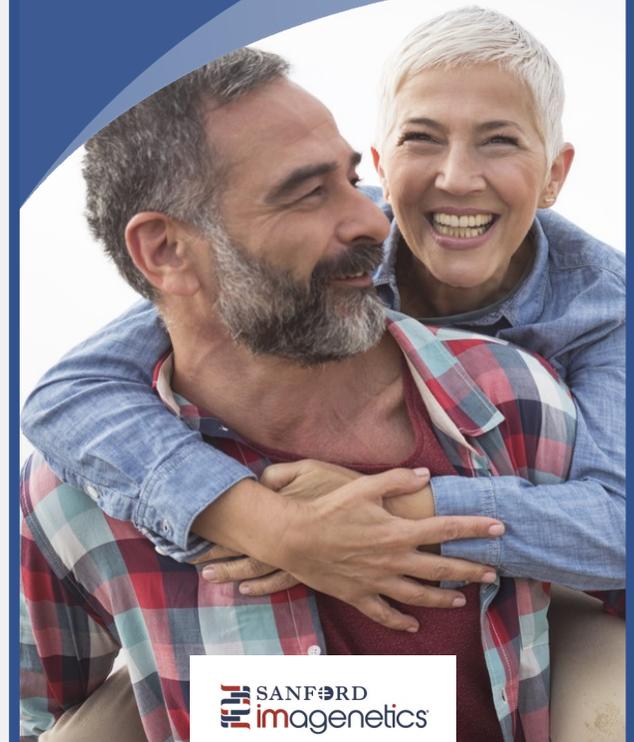
PHASER

Pharmacogenomic Testing for
Veterans

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Using genetics to find the best treatment: Information about the PHASER Program

“Pharmacogenomics (PGx) Testing for Veterans”





PHASER

"Pharmacogenomic Testing for Veterans"

What is Pharmacogenomics (PGx) testing? Who is eligible to get tested?

Pharmacogenomics (PGx) refers to genes that impact how your body reacts to drugs. Each person may have some differences in the genes that explain why we may react differently to the same drug. These genes can affect how well a drug may work for you or if you are at risk of having certain side effects. With few exceptions, any veteran receiving care at a PHASER testing site can participate or benefit from PGx.



How is PGx testing performed?

Your doctor will first discuss with you what the PGx test will find, the risks and benefits of testing and the test result, what happens to your blood sample after testing is completed, and what efforts are taken to ensure the privacy of the sample and test results.



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The test requires one tube of blood. Your blood is sent to a laboratory in Sioux Falls, SD. The test looks at genes we know are important in how your body responds to drugs. It takes a few weeks for your VA doctor to receive the results and add them to your record.

How to request PGx testing.

Ask your VA doctor to order your PGx test (using the "Pharmacogenetics Note"). This test may not yet be available at your local VA site but will expand to more VA sites over time.

Benefits, Limitations, and Risks of Testing.

The Best Treatment

 → 
Patient A may see best results with 2 tablets of a medication.

 → 
Another person, Patient B may only need 1 tablet for their treatment.

 → 
A third person, Patient C will only need one-half of a tablet of this same medication.

 → 
A different person, Patient D, may need to take a different drug to see the same benefits as the previous 3 patients.

PGx testing can provide information about how your body responds to drugs. Your doctor can use this information to help plan your care and the drugs you receive.

(Benefits continued on the next panel)



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With this information, your medical history, and guidelines from medical organizations and the Food and Drug Administration, your doctor can decide about specific drugs and doses that will most likely work best for you to:

- Possibly have fewer side effects
- Make the best use of your medicines
- Find the right medicine sooner, and
- Avoid the need to change your prescription in the future

Limitations

Many issues determine if a drug will cause side effects or if it will work as expected, such as the other drugs you take, your health, age, weight, and diet.

The PGx test only provides one type of information about response to drugs. In addition, while this test will study some genes, there are other genes that are not tested that may also impact the results. So, this test can only partly inform how you will respond to a drug.

Lastly, this test provides information on response to certain medications commonly prescribed to Veterans in their lifetime. You may be taking other drugs for which the genes involved are not yet well understood or included on this test. Talk to your doctor about how this test can be used to inform the medicines you may be taking.