

GENETIC TESTING

What you need to know

1. Do I need genetic testing?

Genetic tests are used to:

- Detect or confirm genetic diseases and inherited conditions
- Predict risk of disease for an individual and their children or relatives
- Select treatments and monitor patient's response
- Predict the outcome of disease

2. Who can help me choose the right test?

Genetic tests for medical purposes should be ordered and interpreted with the assistance of your doctor. Talk to your doctor before having a genetic test performed.

The laboratory should help you and your doctor to select the right genetic test by telling you the following:

- The genetic tests that they offer
- Explanation of how each test works and what the results will mean
- Instructions on how specimens must be collected and sent to the laboratory
- An estimated cost

3. What information will I need to give to the laboratory?

The laboratory requires certain information before performing a test. This may include:

- Race/ethnicity
- Family history
- Health information

Several state and local governments require that you or your guardian sign an agreement that says you understand and agree to have a laboratory test performed.

4. What will the results tell me?

Your laboratory results should include:

- The name of the test and how well it works
- The results of the test and what they mean
- Whether genetic counseling is indicated and where to get counseling
- Whether your family may also be affected

5. Will my results be confidential?

The laboratory must, by law, keep your personal information and test results confidential. In instances where your results can be used to help care for a family member, the laboratory should first request permission from you to share the results.

6. How can I learn more?

Ask your doctor. Visit www.cdc.gov/dls/moleculartesting

