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**GENETIC TESTING   
What you need to know**

## 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

## 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

## 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.

1. **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

## 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.

## How can I learn more?

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