

# Pharmacogenomics (PGx) for Mental Health Medicines

## What is pharmacogenomics?

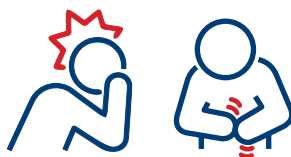
**Pharmacogenomics uses your genetics to help find the right dose and medicine for you.** Genes are inherited from your parents. Genes carry the information that may help explain why you react differently to medicines compared to someone else.



## Your genes can affect:



How a medicine  
may work for you



Your risk of side effects



Your medicines  
and treatment plan

## PGx test results help personalize medicine selection.

This includes prescribed mental health medicines as well as other medicines that you may receive now or in the future.

Example medicines:		
Amitriptyline	Escitalopram	Sertraline
Atomoxetine	Fluvoxamine	Venlafaxine
Citalopram	Nortriptyline	Vortioxetine
Doxepin	Paroxetine	

## What do I need to know before testing?

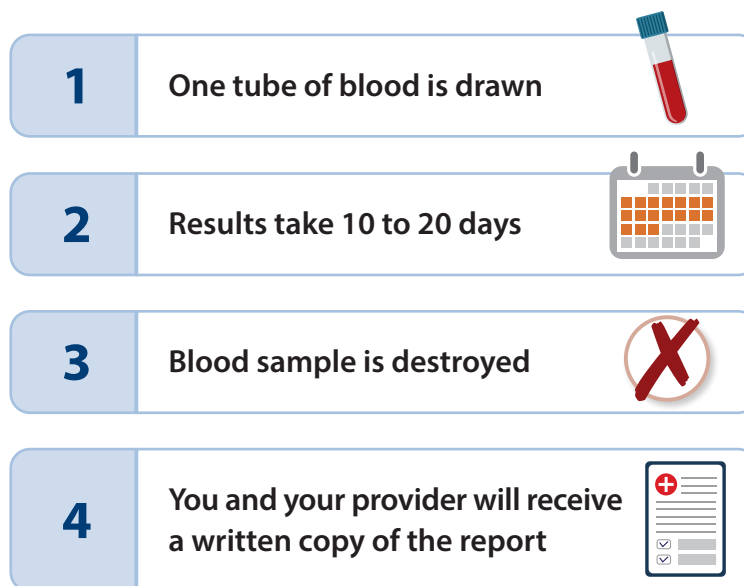
- **Pharmacogenomics is just one factor** that may impact how you respond to a medicine. Other factors include your age, sex, race/ethnicity, and other medicines you may be taking.
- **Federal law protects patients from discrimination** by insurance companies or employers based on testing results.
- If you have had a liver or certain bone marrow transplants, you are not a candidate for testing.

## What could PGx test results mean for me?

It shows how your body breaks down (metabolizes) or gets rid of medicines. Some people break down certain medicines faster or slower than others. For example:

- **Poor, intermediate, or rapid metabolizer:** you break down medicines differently than expected. Ask your provider about what this may mean for you.
- **Normal metabolizer:** you break down medicines as expected. A change in your medicine is likely not needed.

## The process of taking the PGx test:



**Do not stop taking any medicines based upon results without talking to your healthcare provider first.**

## Discuss test results with your healthcare provider.

Many things can impact the medicines you take. These include other conditions you may have, what you eat every day, and even other medicines you take. If you have been on a medicine that works for you without side effects, there may not be a reason to change your medicine.

