

How to talk to your patients about Pharmacogenomics (PGx)

It is important to have a basic knowledge base of PGx before speaking with your patients. Please refer to (OO education link):

oneome.com/education

Step 1: Assess your patients' general knowledge of genetics:

Explain that your genes are what you inherit from your parents when you are born. Just like everyone is unique on the outside (eye color, hair color, height etc.) we are also different on the inside and thus may also process medications differently.

Step 2: Explain what pharmacogenomics (PGx) is:

Pharmacogenomics, also known as PGx, is a part of precision medicine. PGx refers to genetic testing to learn how your **unique genes may predict how you process medications**. The test may be done with a **saliva or blood sample**. PGx is not intended to diagnose disease or your risk of certain hereditary conditions like cancer.

Step 3: Explain the benefits of PGx:

Your unique genes can give insight to clinicians into how you may process medications. You may metabolize (breakdown) medications too slowly or too quickly.

This may result in an increased risk of side effects or not getting the full benefit of certain medications. PGx can help provide this information to your doctor or pharmacist to make the most informed prescribing decision for you.

Dedicated experts are available to answer your questions. support@oneome.com (844-663-6635)

Step 4: Explain the limitations of PGx:

PGx is not all you need to know. Providers consider other clinical factors such as age, diet, and other medications etc. PGx is not impactful for all conditions or all medications. PGx testing does not mean the medication will work for you 100% or that it will not cause any unwanted side effects. **PGx is one piece of the puzzle.**

Patients ineligible for PGx testing include those with liver, bone marrow, or stem cell transplants and those experiencing liver failure.

Step 5: Explain how you will use these results:

Educate your patient on how you will use the results. It may be used at the time of prescribing a new medication or when several medications have failed. Professional guidelines known as CPIC or information in the FDA label may guide in how you use these results. Results may also be stored and used in the future as your genes do not change.

Patients should never stop their medications without consulting with their prescriber first.

Steps to PGx:

- 1
 - Assess patients' general knowledge of genetics
 - Genes are inherited
- 2
- What is pharmacogenomics (PGx)?
- Your unique genes may predict how you process medications
- 3
- What are the benefits of PGx?
- May help reduce side effects and help personalize medications



- What are the limitations of PGx?
- PGx one piece of the puzzle (other clinical factors to consider)



- How will the results be used?
- May aid in medication selection or dosage adjustment

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