

HOW IS MY GENETIC INFORMATION PROTECTED?

UF Health protects all of your health information, including genetic information, with strict security policies and safeguards. Protecting the privacy of our patients is of utmost importance to us.



HOW TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about personalized medicine at UF Health and how your information is protected, visit our patient resources page on the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program's website. We provide information about which medications and health care providers are part of our program, as well as links to UF Health and other resources on patient privacy and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

personalizedmedicine.UFHealth.org

UF HEALTH PERSONALIZED MEDICINE PROGRAM

Information on Genetic Testing for Clopidogrel (Plavix®)



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As part of your care at UF Health, your doctor may order a genetic test through the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program to help identify which medication or dose is likely to work best for you.

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HOW DO MY GENES AFFECT MY RESPONSE TO MEDICATIONS?

Genes, which are made of DNA, act as the instruction manual for making all of the proteins in your body. Proteins help your body process medications, and differences in genes can affect the proteins that process certain medications. Screening for specific genetic variations can help you receive the proper dose, experience fewer side effects or avoid drugs that might not work well.

WHAT IS CLOPIDOGREL?

Clopidogrel (Plavix®) is a medication that prevents blood cells from sticking together and forming a harmful clot. It can be given to reduce the risk of heart attacks or strokes in some individuals.

WHY AM I GETTING A GENETIC TEST?

In order for clopidogrel to work, a protein called CYP2C19 (pronounced “SIP-2-see-19”) has to help your body convert the medication to an active form. This protein works faster or slower depending on your genetics. If the protein works slower, clopidogrel might not work as well as it should. In 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration added a warning about these genetic factors to the drug’s label.

Information about your CYP2C19 gene will help your doctor determine the right medicine and the right dose to reduce your risk of blood clots forming.



WHAT DOES THE GENETIC TEST INVOLVE?

A health care provider will draw a small amount of blood to be processed in the lab.

WHEN IS THE GENETIC TEST ORDERED?

A CYP2C19 genetic test is often ordered when patients have a stent placed in a blood vessel of the heart, but it may also be ordered in other situations.

HOW CAN I LEARN ABOUT MY TEST RESULTS?

Your test results will be stored in your UF Health electronic medical record for your doctor and health care team to use in your care. Let your UF Health provider know if you’d like to discuss your test results. Always speak to a health care provider before starting or stopping any medication.