Pharmacogenomic (PGx) testing can be helpful when deciding the best treatment for an individual. It is a part of precision medicine or personalized medicine.

Genes are pieces of DNA inside each cell. They tell the cell how to make the proteins it needs to function. Each gene contains the code (instructions) to make a certain protein, and each protein has a specific job in the cell. Genes tell cells when to grow and divide, and determine physical traits (eye color, hair color, and height) and other inherited information.

Pharmacogenomic testing checks a person’s inherited genes (genes that you were born with) to find changes that may affect the way a medicine works in your body. This testing finds out how a patient’s body breaks down, absorbs, and uses medicines.

For patients with cancer, pharmacogenomic testing (PGx) can guide decision-making by providing a more personalized treatment plan.

Talk to your cancer care team about treatment options for your cancer and if you would benefit from pharmacogenomic testing. You may want to reach out to your insurance company to see if insurance covers the testing.

By connecting people with cancer to the right treatment, and the right dose at the right time, pharmacogenomic (PGx) testing can guide cancer treatments for better outcomes.

To learn more, visit the American Cancer Society website at cancer.org or call us at 1-800-227-2345. We’re here when you need us.