

Medco's Personalized Medicine Program

People vary widely in how they respond to medications. A dose that could help one patient might be dangerous for another, and useless for a third. These differences have a lot to do with the way medications work in your body. Certain medications need to be converted by enzymes in the liver in order to do what they are supposed to do. Each of us has different amounts of those enzymes, and that is one of the primary reasons why drugs affect people in different ways.

Until recently, doctors often had to determine the proper dose of a medication through trial and error. There was no good way to predict what dose would be most effective for a patient, or the least likely to produce side effects. New genetic testing has been developed to help doctors prescribe the most appropriate drug and dosage for each patient's condition. The Personalized Medicine Program gives you the full benefit of these advances. If you are given a new prescription for medication covered by the Personalized Medicine Program – such as Coumadin or its generic Warfarin (blood thinners) or a new prescription for Tamoxifen (used to prevent a recurrence of breast cancer) – after July 1, 2010, a pharmacist will contact your doctor to see if it is appropriate for you to participate in the program. If your doctor agrees, you will then be contacted by a pharmacist to let you know that the testing is available. If you agree to participate, you will receive a cheek swab test that you can administer on your own. It's as simple as rubbing a swab on your cheek and mailing it back in an envelope. The results will be sent to your doctor and to a specially trained Medco pharmacist who can help your doctor interpret the results of the test. Of course, your doctor decides which drug and dose is right for you.

The Personalized Medicine Program is available to you at no additional cost, and it requires no action on your part. To find out more, contact Medco Member Services at 1-800-939-2142.

Additional information on prescription services provided by Medco is available at <http://ben.omb.delaware.gov/script/index.shtml> or Medco's website at <https://host1.medcohealth.com/medco/consumer/partner/preOpenEnroll.jsp?accessCode=SODA CTRE13852>

For further assistance contact:
Statewide Benefits Office at 1-800-489-8933 or 739-8331
Medco's Member Services at 1-800-939-2142