What is Genetic Testing?
Genetic testing is medical testing on a sample of blood or saliva that doctors use to look for changes or variants in a person's genes or DNA that can cause diseases.

Why Should I Consider Genetic Testing for Myself or My Child?
Many rare and undiagnosed diseases are caused by gene changes. Genetic testing can provide a diagnosis, and this can help doctors determine the best treatment and care team.
A diagnosis may also be helpful for family planning, and it can help you find a patient community for information and support.

What Genetic Tests are Used to Diagnose Rare Diseases?

- **Single Gene Tests**
  Looks for changes in a single gene that cause a specific disease.
  For someone who has symptoms that match a specific rare disease

- **Gene Panel Tests**
  Looks for changes in many genes that cause different diseases.
  For a child who is developing slowly or has seizures because these problems can match many different rare diseases

- **Whole Exome Tests**
  Look for changes in all of a person's genes.
  For someone who has many different symptoms that can match many different rare diseases

How Can I Find Out If Genetic Testing Could Be Helpful?
Ask your doctor if genetic testing could provide information about the cause of your disease. You can also ask for a referral to a genetic counselor or look for a genetic counselor on the National Society of Genetic Counselors website: findageneiccounselor.nsgc.org