

WHY SHOULD I GET GENETIC TESTING IF I ALREADY HAVE A DIAGNOSIS?



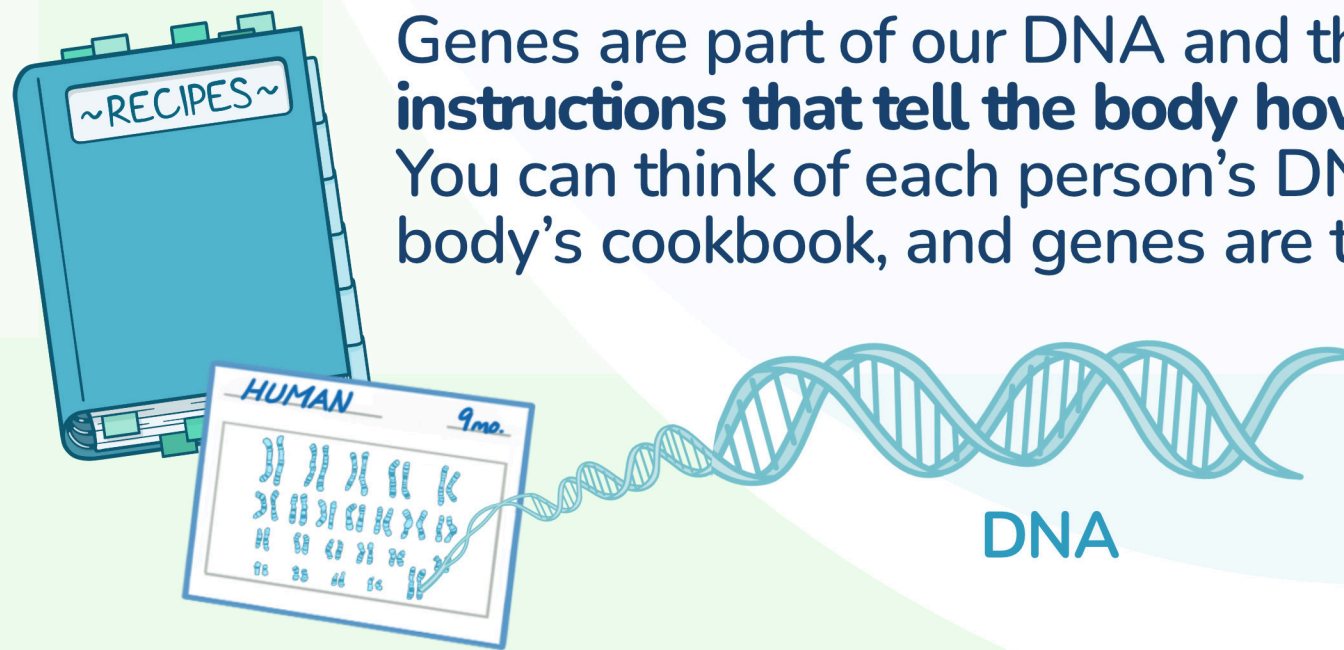
▶ WHAT is GENETIC TESTING?

Genetic testing is a type of medical test that doctors use to look for changes called **variants** in a person's genes or DNA that can cause diseases.



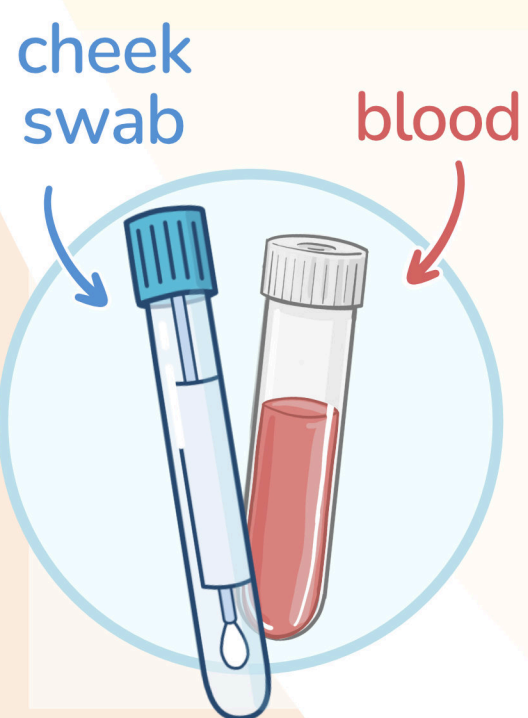
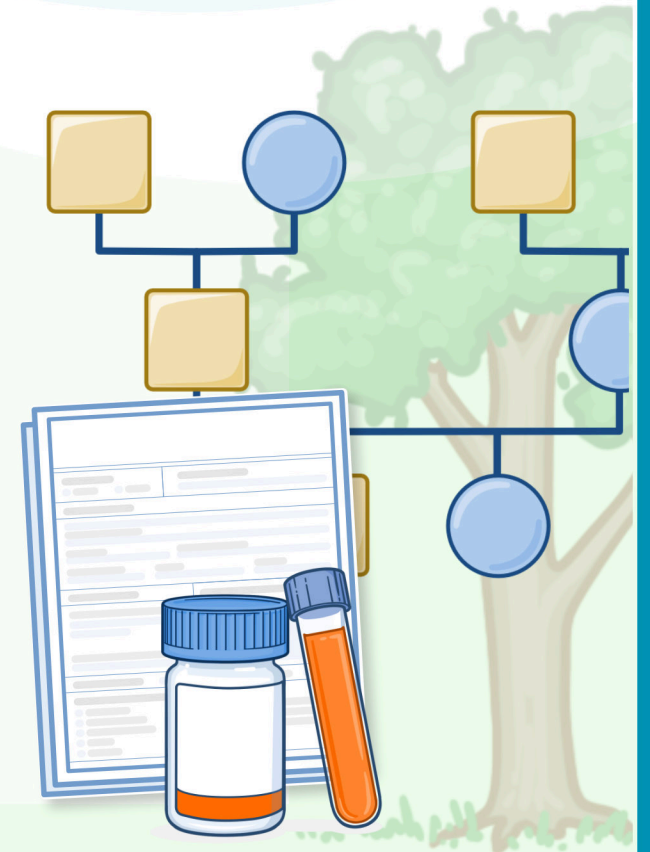
▶ WHAT are GENES and DNA?

Genes are part of our DNA and they provide **instructions that tell the body how to function**. You can think of each person's DNA as their body's cookbook, and genes are the recipes.



▶ WHY is GENETIC TESTING IMPORTANT?

- Genetic testing can look for **variants** that cause your disease
- Doctors can use this information to **predict what symptoms** may develop and add other doctors to your medical care team
- Some **research studies** are only open to patients with specific gene variants
- Knowing your gene variants can be **helpful for family planning**



▶ WHAT DOES the GENETIC TESTING PROCESS LOOK LIKE and WHY is GENETIC COUNSELING IMPORTANT?

Your doctor can refer you to a **genetic counselor** to discuss genetic testing. If you want genetic testing, a DNA **sample can be collected from a blood draw or cheek swab**. The genetic counselor will meet with you when results are received to explain what they mean for your medical care.



▶ IS GENETIC TESTING the SAME THING as NEWBORN SCREENING?

Newborn screening is different from genetic testing. It's a **public health program** that screens newborns for **certain rare diseases** that can affect a child's long-term health or survival. These infants can receive treatment to prevent serious health problems.



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT GENETIC TESTING?

For more information about genetic testing, talk with your doctor or find a genetic counselor near you on the National Society of Genetic Counselors website. <https://findageneticcounselor.nsgc.org/>