Frequently Asked Questions

How is the sample obtained?

After authorization by a physician, the patient receives an email with a link allowing them to sign up for the ActX service. On the registration page, the patient views the ActX Privacy Policy, FAQs, Service Limitations, and the ActX Informed Consent Agreement, and pays for the Service. The patient will receive a saliva collection kit at their home, and spit 1 cc into a tube. The kit is then mailed directly using a self-mailer to our CLIA certified laboratory, where it is genotyped. The genetic data will then be securely uploaded for analysis and storage.

How much patient information is needed to authorize a patient?

If you use ActX inside an integrated Electronic Health Record, you will need to provide the patient's email address. If you use the ActX web site, you must provide the patient's first name, last name, date of birth, gender, email address, and (optionally) medical record number.

Who are good candidates for this test?

Good candidates for the ActX Service include, but are not limited to:
- Patients taking multiple medications
- Patients over 40 with two chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, and obesity/hypertension
- Patients who do not have knowledge of their family health history
- Patients who have a personal or family interest in genetics
- Patients who want to be pro-active in managing their health

How long does it take to get results back?

Results will be available in four to eight weeks after a sample is sent to us. In some cases samples must be re-run if the initial sample fails Quality Assurance, which will delay the results.

How will I be notified of results?

If you use ActX inside an integrated Electronic Health Record, you will be notified of your patient's results availability within your EHR. If you use the ActX web site, you will be notified that a patient's results are available via email. As an authorizing physician, you will receive your notification five days before your patient does.

How is the patient notified of results?

Patients are notified that their results are available via email. They can then sign into their account on ActX.com to view their results. As their authorizing physician, you will receive your results notification five days before your patient does.

How secure is patient data?

All data is encrypted end to end, with sophisticated authentication and audit procedures. Patient privacy is a primary goal, and the technology is designed to be HIPAA compliant.

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How many alerts can I expect to see for each patient?

Most patients have between three and five medication alerts. About 85% of patients have at least one medication related alert. Currently, about 4-5% of patients have an actionable, serious risk alert.

How often are risks/medications added?

New medications and risks are added when new publications with sufficient evidence are released. ActX covers most U.S. prescription drugs for which there is sufficient evidence of a genomic effect. We test for a wide range of actionable, adult-onset disease risks that have been recommended by knowledgeable authorities.

Is the test covered by insurance?

Not at this time. The ActX Service is currently paid for by patients and not covered by insurance. ActX is in the process of working with insurance companies to provide coverage.

What is the impact of genetics on insurance and employment?

Under U.S. federal law, GINA, genomic information should not disqualify patients from health insurance, or affect its cost. Likewise, under U.S. federal law, employers should not discriminate against patients based on genomic information.

However, it is important to note that U.S. federal law does not prevent other insurance companies such as life insurance, disability insurance, or long term care insurance from using genomic information.

How accurate is the test?

ActX emphasizes the reduction of false positives. The genotyping process is on average 99% specific, but for serious non-medications risks, we are often testing for rare variants. As a result, for serious non-medication risks such as Lynch syndrome, we use a second orthogonal test, Sanger sequencing, to confirm the variant finding prior to returning it.

For the variants that we check for, our false negative rate is 2.5% or less. It is important to note that our genotyping process does not check for all possible variants, so the actual false negative rate can be significantly higher. ActX is intended for informational and not diagnostic use. High risk patients for serious genetic risks should be tested using diagnostic gene specific sequencing tests (such as those for BRCA1 and BRCA2). In addition, if we do return a serious, non-medication risk we recommend confirmatory testing and evaluation by a genetics specialist.

How much does ActX cost?

You can see the current price for ActX when authorizing a patient. Select the ‘View Pricing’ link below the ‘Authorize’ button.