

My pharmacy is adding pharmacogenomic testing to our suite of professional services.

Pharmacogenomics is the study of how genetic variations influence drug response. These variations can result in either harmful side-effects or lack of therapeutic effect. Pharmacogenomic testing is therefore used to help clinicians prescribe safe and effective medications tailored to their patients' genetic makeup.

Our pharmacy has appointed myDNA as its partner in providing this new professional service. The myDNA test, formally known as DNAdose, is a multi-gene pharmacogenomic test that identifies variations in a number of genes affecting the metabolism of up to 50% of commonly prescribed medications.

The parent company was founded in 2007 by Associate Professor Les Sheffield, a clinical geneticist with expertise in the clinical interpretation of molecular genetic tests. myDNA partners with Australian Clinical Labs, which ensures that all genetic tests are processed in a NATA accredited laboratory.

Our team of pharmacists will be discussing the benefits of pharmacogenomic testing with patients. The test covers many commonly prescribed medications including antidepressants, blood thinners, pain relievers, acid reflux medications and high cholesterol medications.

The myDNA test is conducted in a private consultation room using non-invasive cheek swabs. If the results, interpreted by the myDNA clinical team, suggest that an adjustment of medication or dose may be required (based on international best practice guidelines), the patient will be directed to consult you. My pharmacists will not be making any recommendations for medication change at any stage.

If you would like to discuss this new professional service or access any additional information about pharmacogenomics, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,