

THE CHALLENGE:

Medications are not one-size-fits-all. If a plan member is taking a medication that isn't working or that is causing side-effects, it can have an impact on all aspects of their life, including physical well-being, social functioning, and employment.

THE SOLUTION:

GSC's Pharmacogenetic Testing and Counselling program

The results of a simple genetic test can help a prescriber or pharmacist choose a medication better suited to an individual, leading to improved health outcomes sooner.



INTRODUCING THE GREEN SHIELD CANADA (GSC) PHARMACOGENETIC TESTING AND COUNSELLING PROGRAM

Pharmacogenetics is one of several types of genetic testing available for medical purposes. It helps physicians and pharmacists choose medications best suited to an individual based on the results of a genetic test that determines whether a person has certain genetic mutations that are known to influence their response to a drug in a certain way.

The Pharmacogenetic Testing and Counselling program is included as a standard benefit under GSC's extended health services plans and is offered in partnership with GenXys, a leader in pharmacogenetics in Canada.*

About GenXys...

With industry-leading evidence-based precision prescribing software to support prescribers and pharmacists, GenXys is a forward-thinking partner that shares our commitment to solving complex health challenges. Visit [genxys.com](https://www.genxys.com) to learn more.

Focusing on mental health

Initially the focus of the program will be on mental health, specifically depression and anxiety. These are among the most common types of mental disorders and can have a major impact on all aspects of life – including physical well-being, social functioning, and employment. Eligibility will be limited to those who meet GSC's medical criteria, therefore, prior authorization will be required. Plan members with depression and/or anxiety who have tried and failed, or are intolerant to, at least one medication for managing their condition will be eligible for this program.

*The program is not currently available for plan members residing in Quebec.

TreatGx^{plus}: An all-in-one pharmacogenetic product

The Pharmacogenetic Testing and Counselling program provides eligible plan members access to the GenXys TreatGx^{plus*} product. This all-in-one product includes the myPGx pharmacogenetic test, comprehensive pharmacogenetic reports, and a subscription to the TreatGx medication decision-support software for both the plan member and their health care provider allowing for a collaborative decision-making process. TreatGx includes a range of evidence-based treatment algorithms based on the most up-to-date guidelines for conditions commonly treated in primary care.

Not all products are created equal

While many products simply offer a static pharmacogenetic report, with TreatGx^{plus}, the pharmacogenetic test results are just the starting point. The accompanying TreatGx software translates those results into actionable information that a health care provider can easily incorporate into their daily workflow. TreatGx not only provides personalized medication options by integrating an individual's pharmacogenetic data but also incorporates other relevant and important health information (e.g., age, liver function, other medications, etc.) to deliver more personalized and optimized recommendations tailored to the individual.

Easy and convenient for plan members

If a plan member is identified as being eligible for the program, their doctor or pharmacist submits both a request to GSC for prior authorization and a pharmacogenetic lab requisition form to GenXys on the plan member's behalf. If approved by GSC, the plan member receives information about registering with GenXys to create their TreatGx account and about ordering the myPGx test kit. The test consists of a simple swab of the lower gums which is sent back to GenXys. When the test results are ready, both the plan member and the ordering health care provider are notified that the results are available on TreatGx, so they can meet to review the results and determine next steps to optimize drug therapy.

* Note that this coverage is for GenXys TreatGx^{plus} pharmacogenetic product only, and all other pharmacogenetic tests available in the market are excluded from the benefit.

To ensure there are no financial barriers for plan members, the entire cost of the test and software is covered by the benefits plan, with no co-payments or deductibles applying, subject only to any overall health maximum (if one is in place), and limited to one test per plan member per lifetime. There are no claims for the plan member to submit. All claims are submitted by GenXys directly to GSC for reimbursement. The pharmacist-delivered counselling component is also included in the total cost of the program.

Another health management innovation from GSC...

Delivered in partnership with trusted health professionals, our health management programs aim to help plan members' efforts to improve their health, such as through optimizing the effectiveness of their medications. Pharmacogenetic testing has been shown to improve health outcomes faster potentially impacting both workplace productivity and our health care system.

Questions?

For more information about Pharmacogenetic Testing and Counselling, contact your GSC account team. For information about GenXys and TreatGx^{plus}, visit [genxys.com](https://www.genxys.com).

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