



October 27, 2020

Dr. Benjamin Kruskal, MD, PhD, FAAP, FIDSA  
Senior Medical Director  
New England Quality Care Alliance  
325 Wood Road, Suite 210  
Braintree, MA 02184

Dear Dr. Kruskal,

We are pleased that NEQCA has elected to participate in Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and OptumRx's innovative pilot to explore the use of pharmacogenomics (PGx) for the treatment of mental health. Our goal is to understand how PGx can best be incorporated into the practice flow to enable pharmacists and providers to collaborate to better direct medication treatment for their patients. The insights gained will help avoid unwanted side effects that drive poor member experience and medical complications.

**Through this program, which launched on October 26<sup>th</sup>, your providers can partner with us on the ordering and delivery of PGx testing for their Harvard Pilgrim patients.** The PGx test results can be used to guide decisions for behavioral health medications both ahead of and after treatment has been initiated. The *Onboarding Kit* can be found at the following link: [HPHCPGx.optum.com](https://bit.ly/2Sn1fe5). Please direct participating providers to follow this link for more information on provider workflows, ordering test kits, enrolling in the FREE PGx CME course, FAQs, and more.

Through this pilot there will be two surveys to better understand provider experience both with the results and how they were received by your patients. Responses to these surveys will be pivotal in helping us shape the future of coverage within this area for our health plan. We would appreciate each participating provider completing the first survey as soon as possible by going to the following link <https://bit.ly/2Sn1fe5> now or scanning the attached QR code.

All costs, educational materials, CME program costs and test supplies will be covered by the study. Additionally, the results from the tests will be completely secure, and the patient's insurance benefits will not be impacted by taking this test, as protected by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA law). Only the patient, the health care providers, and the testing company will be informed of the patient's results.

We hope the NEQCA primary care providers will initiate participation in this exciting pilot by taking the CME and beginning to order these tests for applicable patients.

We look forward to having you join this study and deepening our mutual understanding of the utilization of PGx testing to guide care decisions.

Sincerely,

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