Be a part of the future of medicine

On the cover

Medicine has always been personal, but with modern technology and more effective tools, the future depends on tailoring health care to the individual for a better fit. For example, how one person responds to a medication may be different than another person because of their genetic makeup or their environment. This concept traces back to Penn State Hershey’s Elliot S. Vesell, M.D., Sc.D., the founding chair of the College’s Department of Pharmacology, who noticed genetic differences in medication response in studies of twins.

Today, Penn State Hershey continues tailoring health care with its Institute for Personalized Medicine, laying the foundation for potential breakthroughs by Penn State Hershey scientists and doctors.

This research study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board, under federal regulations at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Penn State College of Medicine. IRB 40532 (8/13/12)
During your appointment, you may be invited to take part in a program at Penn State Hershey to develop a research resource for our scientists – and your doctors. You will be helping improve healthcare over the longterm - for future patients.

By studying their own patients using the latest research methods, our doctors have the potential to develop better care including learning how and why diseases start, improving tests to diagnose diseases, developing better treatments, and training new doctors. Studying blood and tissue (including cells, genes, proteins, and other components found in blood and tissue) with information from your medical record will allow scientists to research not only health problems for which you are being treated, but also other disorders and normal health processes. Combining this information with that collected from other Penn State Hershey patients who participate, a collection called a biorepository will be created giving scientists a more complete view of the community and its health.

**What will I have to do?**

You will donate extra blood only when you are already having blood drawn for your care, and, if you have surgery or a medical procedure, donate whatever leftover tissue, fluid, or cells that would otherwise be discarded during the course of your care.

You will also be asked for additional health information that may not normally be collected during your care.

**What about privacy?**

Your protected health information is matched to your samples for processing and tracking. This information is protected like all health information related to your care at Penn State Hershey.

Any identifying information is removed from samples for research. This means scientists will know medical information about the sample without knowing whose it is. For example, a cancer researcher will know about treatment and other health information related to a tumor sample, but not any information that can identify the actual donor.

**Do I have to participate?**

Participation is completely voluntary. No matter what you decide, now or in the future, it will not affect any aspect of your health care or relationship with Penn State Hershey. You may quit at any time if you participate and request that unused samples be destroyed.

**For more information:**

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