

Be a part of something big!

Geisinger Health System is nationally recognized for its innovative approaches to improving the health of populations. Through our membership with Geisinger, AtlantiCare is now able to bring these innovations to southeastern New Jersey. Our patients and their families now have the opportunity to be active participants in the MyCode Community Health Initiative at AtlantiCare.

MyCode began in 2007 with support from the Geisinger patient community. This research holds the promise of new discoveries and treatments for serious chronic medical conditions that can affect our children, families, friends and communities.

MyCode will make research studies possible by collecting, storing and/or testing biological samples (blood and saliva) from participating AtlantiCare patients and then combining that data with health record information.



"Geisinger is excited to engage with the AtlantiCare community as we expand the MyCode Community Health Initiative," said Andy Faucett, MS, LGC, MyCode Principal Investigator at Geisinger. "Returning results to participants represents a win-win. Not only does the community as a whole benefit from the research that MyCode enables, but participants and their families benefit from learning about an increased risk for diseases that can be prevented or treated."

**For questions about MyCode,
call 1-888-569-1000 or 609-383-6444.**

**Learn more about the MyCode
Community Health Initiative
at www.atlanticare.org/mycode.**

AtlantiCare
A MEMBER OF GEISINGER HEALTH SYSTEM



MyCode Community Health Initiative at AtlantiCare

**Contribute to the future of
healthcare today.**

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Genomics has the potential to benefit patient care and healing in new and exciting ways, ultimately enhancing health and quality of life. We invite you to partner with us through MyCode®.

"The opportunity to be part of such a strong and exciting research project benefits everyone."

— Marilouise Venditti, MD,
Chief Medical Officer, AtlantiCare



What is MyCode?

- MyCode involves the collection and storage of blood and saliva samples as well as related health information for future research use.
- Your participation may help us discover innovative ways to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases.

Who is eligible, and how do I participate?

- All AtlantiCare patients are invited to participate.
- Complete the MyCode informed-consent form.
- Each time you have blood drawn at AtlantiCare, we will collect about two extra tablespoons of blood for research.
- You may also have other opportunities to provide a sample of blood or saliva.
- Your participation will allow us to access information in your medical record and to share results that might be important to your health with you and your healthcare provider.

Who pays for this project?

- MyCode is funded through the following:
 - AtlantiCare and Geisinger internal funding
 - Government grants
 - Grants from nonprofit agencies that support research
 - Commercial partners such as drug companies

How will my privacy be protected?

- Your samples and information will be given a special code known only to a limited number of MyCode team members.
- Although your samples might be shared with other researchers, those researchers will not be given information that can be used to identify you, and they will not contact you directly. All MyCode data is secure and confidential, according to both AtlantiCare's and Geisinger's stringent privacy standards and HIPAA regulations.

In early 2015, President Obama and the National Institutes of Health announced the Precision Medicine Initiative, which will help revolutionize healthcare and provide the best care for every patient. MyCode positions AtlantiCare, through its Geisinger membership, to be an active part of the Precision Medicine Initiative and a leader in the precision health movement.

Will I receive results?

- AtlantiCare is committed to sharing medically important information with MyCode participants and their healthcare providers. All MyCode participants who are found to have gene mutations associated with certain illnesses will be notified.
- It is estimated that between 2 percent and 4 percent of all MyCode participants will be found to have disease-causing genes. That means most participants will not be notified, since there will be nothing to report.

What should I do if I don't hear back?

- Nothing. There is no reason to worry. We will contact you only if we have something to report. If you don't hear anything, it means one of two things — either your results haven't been processed yet or nothing was found in your DNA to report back to you.

Is MyCode a clinical program?

- No. MyCode is not a replacement for seeing your provider. MyCode is a research program whose purpose is to seek and find genetic contributions to illness, to advance knowledge of genomic medicine, and to provide new and improved treatments — and even possibly future cures — for disease.
- MyCode is not a clinical program designed to monitor your individual care. All patients, whether MyCode participants or not, should consult directly with their providers if they have any concerns related to family history or genetic illnesses in order to get appropriate screening and treatment.

Participation is easy.

- Call 1-888-569-1000 or 609-383-6444 to discuss participation.
- Review the informed-consent document.
- Agree to participate by signing the informed-consent document.
- Donate a sample:
 - when you are already having blood drawn for tests ordered by your healthcare provider;
 - when it is convenient for you to stop by an AtlantiCare clinical lab; or
 - by mail when you receive a saliva collection kit.