

1 **TITLE:** A Model for Genome-First Care: Returning Secondary Genomic Findings to Participants  
2 and Their Healthcare Providers in a Large Research Cohort.

3 **RUNNING TITLE:** A Model for Genome-First Care

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25

26

27 **ABSTRACT:**

28 **Background:** Research cohorts with linked genomic data exist, or are being developed, at  
29 many research centers. Within any such “sequenced cohort” of more than 100 participants, it is  
30 likely that there are participants with previously undisclosed risk for life-threatening monogenic  
31 diseases that could be identified with targeted analysis of their existing data. Identification of  
32 such disease-associated findings are not usually primary to the enrollment research goals. At  
33 Geisinger Health System, MyCode® Community Health Initiative (MyCode) participants  
34 represent one such large sequenced cohort. Since 2013, MyCode participants in discovery  
35 research have been consented for secondary analysis of their existing research genomic  
36 sequences to allow delivery of medically actionable findings to them and their healthcare  
37 providers. This return of genomic results program was developed to manage an anticipated  
38 3.5% of MyCode participants who will receive clinically confirmed genomic variants from an  
39 approved gene list out of more than 150,000 total participants. Risk-associated DNA sequences  
40 alone without any clinical parameter, prompt “genome-first” follow-up encounters.

41 **Methods:** This article describes our process for generating clinical grade results from research-  
42 based genomic sequencing data, delivering results to patients and their providers, facilitating  
43 targeted clinical evaluations of patients and promoting cascade testing of at-risk relatives. We  
44 also summarize our early data about the results generated during this process and our ability to  
45 contact patients and their providers to disclose the information.

46 **Results:** This process has been used to generate 343 results on 339 patients. 93% of patients  
47 with a result have been successfully contacted about their results as evidenced by direct  
48 interaction about their result with the research team or a healthcare provider. 222 healthcare  
49 providers have been notified of a result on one or more patient through this result delivery  
50 process.

51 **Conclusions:** Here we describe the existing GHS model to deliver genomic data into the  
52 electronic medical record and the clinical interactions that are prompted and supported.

53 Elements of this genome-first care model can be applied in other healthcare settings and in  
54 national efforts, such as “All of Us”, that wish to establish programs for returning genomic results  
55 to research participants.

## 56 BACKGROUND

57 Genomic sequencing is increasingly used in diagnostic and research applications due to  
58 decreasing costs and improvements in informatics analysis and public genomics databases. [1]  
59 This has led to the development of guidelines about the return of incidental or secondary  
60 findings. [2] The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) proposed an  
61 initial list of 56 genes (subsequently revised to 59 genes), to be analyzed for variants known or  
62 expected to confer disease risk even when unrelated to the primary indication for clinical  
63 testing. [3] These guidelines only apply to clinical sequence data. Similar guidelines do not exist  
64 for sequences generated in research. [3, 4]

65 A large sequenced cohort has been established at Geisinger Health System (GHS) using  
66 biospecimens collected through an EHR-linked biobank, The MyCode® Community Health  
67 Initiative (MyCode). [5] MyCode specimens are utilized for collaborative research with  
68 investigators at the Regeneron Genomics Center. [6] Over 150,000 Geisinger patients have  
69 consented to participate in MyCode with an enrollment goal of at least 250,000 participants.  
70 These participants are concentrated in the GHS service area which extends throughout central  
71 and northeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. Three key infrastructural  
72 components of MyCode enable the use of research-based sequence data for clinical care: 1)  
73 sequence data is linked with participants and their electronic health records (EHR), 2)  
74 participants have consented to receive results, and 3) biobank samples meet Clinical Laboratory  
75 Improvement Amendment (CLIA) standards and are available for clinical confirmatory genetic  
76 testing. An institutional decision was made to analyze genomic sequence data generated from  
77 the MyCode study to return medically actionable findings to participants. [7]

78 A return-of-results program was developed to identify genomic variants within the research data  
79 and to notify participants and their providers of this medically actionable information. This  
80 program represents an emerging application of precision health: incorporating a genome-first  
81 model where genomic data is used to identify individuals with highly penetrant expected  
82 pathogenic sequence variants which then trigger targeted screening, prevention, and  
83 interventions. This program does not use clinical disease or symptom development as the  
84 trigger for engaging genetic services. Rather it enables proactive care by informing participants  
85 of an elevated risk and engaging them in personalized screening and preventive management,  
86 ideally prior to disease development. Despite the clinical overlap, MyCode participation is not  
87 recommended to patients as a method for obtaining diagnostic genetic testing for individuals  
88 with a clinical indication, such as those with a personal or family history suggestive of a  
89 monogenic condition. Funding for this return-of-results program was obtained from institutional  
90 support, grants, and donations and whole exome sequence data was generated for research  
91 use through an industry partnership with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

92 An analysis of the research sequence data suggests that approximately 3.5% of MyCode  
93 participants will carry a pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant using the Geisinger 76 (G76)  
94 gene list [6] which is consistent with the range of 1.2%-6.2% reported in other studies. [8-10]  
95 Geisinger supports the Learning Healthcare System (LHS) framework which promotes the dual  
96 goal of applying existing clinical knowledge in new ways for the purpose of improving health  
97 outcomes and building a robust evidence-base for alternative practice models.[11] The  
98 MyCode return of results program is the first large scale example of a genomics-informed  
99 LHS.[12] The approach described here can be customized for any program that has existing  
100 sequence data linked to medical records to identify individuals for preemptive health  
101 interventions.

102 Organizing principles of the program include careful selection of medically actionable genes with  
103 potential for personal and population health impact, high-quality, stringent variant calling to

104 minimize the false-positive rate, and a return process that supports patients, families, and  
105 clinicians with collaborative approaches to disclosure, evaluation, risk management, and  
106 cascade testing. These principles were important for this screening program because a positive  
107 result can lead to invasive risk management procedures for index patients and their family  
108 members. This paper describes the steps implemented to achieve the goals listed below:

- 109 1. Generate clinical grade results from research-based genomic sequencing data
- 110 2. Deliver results to healthcare providers utilizing the EHR
- 111 3. Communicate results to participants with explanation of the implications
- 112 4. Perform risk-specific targeted clinical evaluations
- 113 5. Facilitate cascade testing of at-risk relatives

## 114 METHODS

### 115 1. Generate Clinical Grade Results from Research-based Genomic Sequencing Data

116 Several steps were implemented to generate a clinical result that meets a standard acceptable  
117 for use in clinical care and placement into the EHR. These steps include determination of a list  
118 of genes for analysis and return, sequence variant analysis and interpretation, verification of  
119 participant eligibility to receive a result, and confirmatory sequencing with subsequent reporting  
120 of positive findings (Figure 1).

#### 121 *Determination of a Gene List for Analysis and Return*

122 In 2013, a team of genetics and genomics experts at Geisinger, in conjunction with a survey  
123 eliciting suggestions from national experts, developed a list of 76 genes for 27 conditions that  
124 builds upon the initial ACMG list of 56 genes. [3] The list includes 23 genes for cancer  
125 predisposition syndromes, 48 that confer risk for cardiovascular conditions, 2 for malignant  
126 hyperthermia, 2 for hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia and 1 for ornithine transcarbamylase  
127 deficiency (Additional File 1 Table 1). Participant consent to MyCode for receiving results is  
128 broad and allows flexibility to modify which results can be returned over time (Additional File 1  
129 Figure 1). Additional types of genomic findings (e.g., pharmacogenomics) are under

130 consideration for future analysis and return. Several overlapping candidate gene lists for risk  
131 identification have been developed by other groups.[3, 4, 8, 13] Many conditions on these lists  
132 share common characteristics such as under-recognition and undertreatment using standard  
133 clinical approaches, availability of confirmatory approaches to establish the medical diagnosis,  
134 evidence based preventive measures and/or treatments, and the possibility of a latency period  
135 before signs or symptoms develop.[3, 4]

### 136 *Variant Analysis and Interpretation*

137 To identify returnable results, sequence data is analyzed to determine those genetic variants  
138 associated with increased disease risk (i.e., expected pathogenic) and initiate confirmatory  
139 sequencing in a CLIA-certified environment. Only variants that are independently classified as  
140 pathogenic or likely pathogenic using established criteria[14] are confirmed by Sanger  
141 sequencing and reported to participants in the MyCode program. Variants of uncertain  
142 significance (VUS), although usually returned in diagnostic testing, are not returned to  
143 participants in this program. To minimize false positives for these conditions in an unselected  
144 population with an overall low prior probability, laboratory scientists perform a stringent analysis  
145 of variants that emphasizes specificity over sensitivity. Likely pathogenic results are treated as  
146 positive since this classification indicates a greater than 90% certainty that a variant is disease  
147 causing, while pathogenic classifications are associated with stronger evidence.[14] The  
148 absence of a confirmed result in a biobank participant is considered uninformative rather than  
149 negative due to limitations in the understanding of the impact of all variants (particularly those  
150 that are rare or unique) on disease and technical limitations of the sequencing process (e.g.  
151 difficulty detecting some deletions/duplications).

152 Genomic sequencing data generated for research use is stored electronically as variant call files  
153 (VCFs) that note differences between participants' sequence data compared with a reference  
154 sequence. Files are attached to a study ID linked to individual participants. A GHS data broker  
155 manages these study IDs so that researchers cannot re-identify participants from VCFs. VCF

156 data for the 76 genes - connected to the study ID, but absent of patient identifiers - are sent to a  
157 clinical laboratory (Partners HealthCare's Laboratory for Molecular Medicine [LMM]) for analysis  
158 using their bioinformatics pipeline and variant interpretation process as described  
159 previously.[15] LMM utilizes stringent application of the ACMG criteria for variant classification  
160 in order to minimize clinical false positives.[14] When predicted pathogenic/likely pathogenic  
161 variants are identified in the VCF data, LMM requests DNA samples for these individuals from  
162 the biobank. The data broker holds the link to de-identified and identified samples and enables  
163 sample release, this time with all patient identifiers, for confirmation using an orthogonal  
164 technology (i.e., Sanger sequencing). An internal GHS pipeline for preliminary filtration of data  
165 to prioritize sequence files with suspected pathogenic or likely pathogenic variants has been  
166 developed and is being tested for performance with the goal to make this fully automated.

#### 167 *Participant Eligibility to Receive a Result*

168 Participant eligibility to receive results is verified before CLIA confirmation of a suspected  
169 pathogenic or likely pathogenic result. Prior to requesting confirmation, the data broker verifies  
170 that individuals are alive and have not withdrawn from MyCode participation. Given the legacy  
171 of how the biobank was established, participants also must have completed an updated version  
172 of the consent that permits return of results and deposition in the electronic medical record. All  
173 individuals with an outdated consent are periodically contacted with a request to re-consent on a  
174 current consent that includes returning actionable results and placing those results in the  
175 medical record.

#### 176 *Confirmation and Reporting*

177 Clinical laboratory reports are generated for CLIA confirmed findings and sent to the study team.  
178 This report is reviewed by the clinical team and uploaded into the participant's EHR. A brief  
179 chart review is conducted to determine if the result was already known from prior genetic testing  
180 to tailor the result delivery process. In addition to the uploaded laboratory results report,  
181 participants and providers have access to user-friendly interpretive reports that have been

182 developed at Geisinger. [16, 17] In the Geisinger MyCode Return of Results, the research  
183 budget covers the cost of confirmatory testing including the generation of the clinical laboratory  
184 report, and the initial discussion of the result with the patient (by a genetic counselor or  
185 geneticist and genetic counselor depending on the condition).

## 186 2. Delivery of Results to Healthcare Providers

187 Primary care providers (PCP) are key contributors in the results disclosure process. PCPs  
188 within GHS receive a message regarding patient results through the EHR 5-7 days before their  
189 patient is notified of the result (Additional File 1 Figure 2). Providers requested this pre-  
190 notification as they wanted to have some ownership of the return process whether they planned  
191 to return the result themselves, or work with the Genomic Medicine team to return the result. To  
192 provide support for providers about conditions they may not be familiar with, “genomic condition  
193 specific” 0.5 hour CME courses are available online for “just in time” education. [18] If a PCP  
194 does not wish to take an active role in disclosure or management of a genomic result, their  
195 patients are supported by the clinical genomics team. This process was developed through  
196 extensive consultation with system clinicians and clinical leadership. Assessment of physician  
197 experience with the return of results process is ongoing to allow iterative improvement.

198 A research coordinator notifies the PCP about patient results using a templated message in the  
199 EHR. The message includes the specific genomic result, the proposed plan for notifying the  
200 patient, and relevant available resources (Table 1). If review of the patient’s EHR identifies that  
201 the genetic finding was previously ascertained through clinical testing, this information is  
202 included in the message to the PCP. If a participant does not have a Geisinger PCP, then both  
203 the external PCP and the GHS provider with whom the patient met on the day of their consent  
204 are notified.

205 Since one out of every three MyCode participants has a non-Geisinger PCP, it was important to  
206 determine how best to communicate this medically actionable information outside the GHS. An  
207 External Provider Liaison position was created to facilitate this communication. This liaison



208 contacts PCPs outside of GHS by phone to notify them and mails a packet with a paper copy of  
209 the result as well as relevant information about the MyCode program and condition-specific  
210 resources. Additional providers are also notified when requested by the participant.

### 211 3. Disclosure of Results to Participants

#### 212 *Notifying Participants of Results*

213 Participants are notified of results and provided with guidance for the appropriate next steps.

214 The multi-step process includes an initial written notification, follow-up phone call, and a mailed  
215 information packet (Figure 2). This initial message, which notifies the participant that genomic  
216 testing has identified a finding important for their health, serves as a primer for return of results  
217 and encourages the participant to contact the MyCode team to learn more about the result  
218 (Additional File 1 Figure 3). It does not provide specific details about the result, and is either  
219 sent through the patient portal associated with the EHR or mail if the participant does not use  
220 the portal. Ten business days after the initial written notification, a research coordinator  
221 attempts to reach every participant who has not responded to the written notification. This  
222 phone disclosure is conducted using a result-specific script (Additional File 1 Figure 5) that  
223 highlights: 1. The nature of the result (i.e., that the result is associated with increased risk for  
224 certain diseases); 2. The result should be discussed with a healthcare provider; 3. The result  
225 should be shared with at-risk relatives; 4. A targeted family-history questionnaire should be  
226 completed; 5. A packet will be mailed with information about their result and letters to facilitate  
227 sharing the result with relatives (Additional File 1 Figure 5); and 6. They will receive a check-in  
228 call in 4 weeks. Participants are then asked to decide with which healthcare providers they  
229 would prefer to meet next (genomics, PCP, other specialist). Appointments with a genomics  
230 provider are available for scheduling at the time of telephone disclosure, during the 4-week  
231 follow-up call and by request.

232 The mailed information packet includes the genetic test report, information about the condition,  
233 letters for sharing their report with family members, information about completing a family

234 history survey and details about how to schedule an appointment with genomics (Table 1).  
235 Participants who have not been reached by phone after 3 attempts are sent a packet by certified  
236 mail with the above materials and a letter indicating that we have been unable to contact them (  
237 6).

238 The recommendation for follow-up with a healthcare provider includes condition-specific  
239 information regarding targeted evaluation in either a specialty or primary care setting and  
240 genetic counseling. Appropriate specialists for each genomic condition have been identified  
241 throughout the system based on expertise and interest.

#### 242 *Genetics Assessment*

243 Participants who choose to meet with the genomics team have the option to discuss their results  
244 in person or via phone or telemedicine. This genetic counseling session is often the first  
245 opportunity for an in-depth explanation of their genomic finding(s) and the associated medical  
246 conditions. Additional topics of discussion include: targeted review of personal and family  
247 histories, risks for variant-associated disease, condition-specific surveillance and management  
248 guidelines, inheritance patterns, and relatives with whom results should be shared. The  
249 genomics clinician facilitates guideline-based referrals for surveillance and management.  
250 Family history information is gathered to assess penetrance within the family (affecting risk  
251 assessment), to identify which relatives are at-risk, and to help understand psychosocially-  
252 relevant family dynamics. Participants have multiple avenues to provide their family history: an  
253 on-line family history tool, a paper family history form, or via a telephone call. Family history  
254 acquisition is targeted to genotype-associated phenotypes (i.e. clinical problems associated with  
255 the genetic variant).

256 Psychosocial support is provided throughout each session, with specific consideration of how  
257 the individual has been coping with the result (e.g., anxiety or distress), readiness to engage in  
258 recommended surveillance and management, and support for discussing the result with family  
259 members. Participants are encouraged to bring a family member for support.

260 4. Targeted clinical evaluations

261 Targeted clinical evaluations are crucial to the process of understanding genotype-phenotype  
262 correlations in this population. These targeted clinical evaluations may include assessment for  
263 relevant clinical manifestations, physical exam findings, pertinent past medical history,  
264 labs/diagnostics, detailed condition-specific family history, and consultation with specialists.  
265 Evaluations by appropriate clinical experts are encouraged, and are condition-specific. Targeted  
266 evaluations aid in identification of phenotypic findings that may require medical attention and  
267 inform research efforts to understand the natural history of the disease in this population  
268 genomics approach.

269 The genomic result is a risk marker, and not equivalent to a diagnosis (19). For patients whose  
270 clinical evaluation does not reveal a diagnosis of the associated genomic condition, the result is  
271 placed in the problem list of their EHR as a laboratory finding, to prompt appropriate ongoing  
272 follow-up. We have developed a framework in which participants are categorized into one of  
273 five diagnostic groups[19] based on whether the associated phenotype is present at time of  
274 evaluation.[18] The development of a care plan in this patient population is different from an  
275 indication-based evaluation, as it is a genetic finding that prompts the initial evaluation rather  
276 than the patient presenting with signs or symptoms of the disorder, or a family history. After the  
277 session, the evaluating clinicians work with the participant's PCP to coordinate follow-up  
278 appointments with appropriate specialists and facilitate cascade testing of at-risk relatives.

279 5. Facilitating cascade testing of at-risk relatives

280 The genetic testing and counseling of at-risk relatives of participants who receive a result is  
281 critical for maximizing the population health impact of screening research exomes for actionable  
282 genomic results. Enough copies of the family letter are mailed to each participant to share with  
283 all living first-degree relatives, as ascertained by the research coordinator during the result  
284 disclosure phone call. During the week-four post disclosure check-in call, the research  
285 coordinator reminds the participant of the family letter, and asks if the result has been shared

286 with any relatives. The importance of family sharing and follow-up is reiterated during this phone  
287 call. In addition, each genetic counseling session includes a focused discussion about the  
288 importance of sharing results with family members. Participants are reminded that their relatives  
289 may reach out to the genomics team with any questions and if desired, the team will assist with  
290 arrangements for testing. Family members who attend the initial genetic counseling  
291 appointment with the participant may pursue testing at that visit.

## 292 RESULTS

293 As of July 3, 2017, 343 single gene results have been identified and returned using the  
294 methodology described above. These results were identified in 34 genes associated with  
295 increased risk for 18 conditions (Table 2). A publicly available list of the results that have been  
296 returned is updated monthly [18]. Return of results is in progress with certain conditions  
297 prioritized for return so the posted numbers should not be used to infer prevalence of the  
298 conditions in our population. In addition, not all patient samples have been formally reviewed in  
299 this ongoing project.

300 A total of 339 patients have received a result through this program, including 4 patients who  
301 have each received 2 distinct results (*BRCA2* and *APOB*; *BRCA1* and *LDLR*; *BRCA2* and  
302 *PKP2*; *SCN5A* and *LMNA*). One patient who received both an *SCN5A* and *LMNA* result had  
303 received only the *SCN5A* result in the initial result disclosure. The *LMNA* result linked to Familial  
304 Partial Lipodystrophy was identified by the lab, but reported as a research result to the team as  
305 the *LMNA* gene was on the return list for cardiomyopathy but not Familial Partial Lipodystrophy.  
306 In a consult with this patient, it became apparent that this individual had a known clinical  
307 diagnosis of Familial Partial Lipodystrophy and her healthcare providers worked with the  
308 laboratory with the verbal consent of the patient to have the report re-identified, issued to the  
309 patient, and placed in the EHR.

310 Among these 339 patients, 303 patients have had direct contact with the clinical genomics team  
311 as a part of the result disclosure process. Since this process is ongoing, 21 of the 339 patients

312 are in the first phase of the return process where their providers have been notified, but the  
313 patients have not yet been notified of their results. A total of 15 patients have not been reached  
314 by the clinical genomics team and were sent the unable to contact patient packet as a certified  
315 letter (Additional File 1 Figure 6). One of these 15 patients has documentation in his chart of an  
316 interaction with primary care about his result. Overall, 304 out of 325 patients (93.5%) who  
317 have been contacted about their result are confirmed to have been successfully informed of  
318 their result using this process.

319 Additionally, 222 providers have been notified of patient results as a part of the result delivery  
320 process including 97 GHS primary care providers, 52 GHS specialists, and 73 external primary  
321 care providers.

## 322 DISCUSSION

323 We describe a genome-first model for returning genomic results to unselected research  
324 participants within a health care system. The program integrates genomic data with electronic  
325 medical records to identify and return clinically actionable genomic variant information to  
326 participants and providers. The early stages of this program have been successful at reaching  
327 patients and their providers about results and demonstrate the feasibility of incorporating  
328 genomic sequence risk information into clinical care management. We are simultaneously  
329 building the evidence base to develop and continually refine clinical practice objectives for  
330 precision genomic medicine. This approach will allow for monitoring long-term outcomes  
331 related to health, health care utilization, psychosocial functioning, and economics.

332 The foundation of the program focuses on variant identification, curation, and clinical  
333 interpretation. Although starting with a recognized list of actionable genes, the importance of  
334 the variant calling pipeline cannot be underestimated. Every effort is made to minimize the  
335 potential for harm and optimize the potential for improving health outcomes from the participant  
336 perspective. The implications of positive actionable findings in terms of potential significant and

337 irreversible patient health decisions guided the process to ensure the most accurate variant  
338 classification possible.

339 Designing a program that met the needs of participants and providers required significant  
340 preparation and relied heavily on input from providers and participants. An important example  
341 of this was the request by providers involved instituting a delay in reporting results to patients,  
342 giving providers 5 days to investigate the result prior to releasing it to the patient. Participants  
343 endorsed the involvement of their providers and requested that results be returned in multiple  
344 formats (e.g. letter, phone, or in the patient EHR portal) given limited email or internet access.  
345 The clinical follow-up preferences of patients and their at-risk relatives is an area of future  
346 research interest extending from this project.

347 An important challenge of this program is that the participants who receive results in the early  
348 stages of the program will be managed using practices that often have been optimized to an  
349 population identified through traditional clinical diagnosis. This is particularly vexing given the  
350 uncertainty regarding disease penetrance in genotypically identified individuals.[20, 21]

351 However, evidence generation in the context of the program, a key element of a LHS, will  
352 accrue knowledge that can then be applied to future participants with secondary genomic  
353 findings identified through clinical genomic sequencing—a problem that already exists and for  
354 which no evidence based recommendations exist.

355 Although the model applied here is specific to generating results from genomic screening, the  
356 same broad principles can be applied to other programs that search existing data for meaningful  
357 information. In particular, the EHR is a rich source of data with the potential to be mined to  
358 answer research and clinical questions.[22-24] The same basic steps of generating findings  
359 and ensuring they meet reasonable quality standards, communicating findings with clinicians  
360 and participants, and facilitating follow-up care would be applicable in this context.

361 Population based genomic screening programs have great potential to impact population health  
362 by enabling precision disease prevention and management, and can be optimized if

363 implemented using principles of the LHS framework.[24] The model described here uses such  
364 a framework that can be adapted to other healthcare settings that aim to establish similar  
365 programs for returning genomic results to research participants. This program was developed  
366 using a LHS framework because the evidence base supporting the clinical use of genomic  
367 screening in a general population setting, while promising, remains immature. Use of the LHS  
368 framework to guide design, implementation, evaluation, and iteration enhances the likelihood  
369 that the program will improve health outcomes of importance to patients and providers and  
370 provide value to the healthcare system.

371 **List of Abbreviations:**

372 GHS, Geisinger Health System

373 MyCode, MyCode Community Health Initiative

374 ACMG, American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

375 CLIA, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment

376 EHR, Electronic Health Record

377 G76, Geisinger 76 Gene List

378 VUS, Variant of Uncertain Significance

379 VCF, Variant Call File

380 LMM, Partners Healthcare's Laboratory for Molecular Medicine

381 PCP, Primary Care Provider

382 LHS, Learning Healthcare System

383 WES, Whole Exome Sequencing,

384 P/LP, Pathogenic/likely pathogenic

385 **Declarations**

386 Ethics approval and consent to participate

387 Approval for this study was received by the Geisinger Health System Institutional Review Board, Study  
388 number 2006-0258. Participants were consented in accordance with the approved protocol.

389 Consent for publication

390 Not Applicable

391 Availability of data and material

392 A list of the number and type of results returned for each condition through this program is updated  
393 monthly and is available on the GHS MyCode Website

394 (<https://www.geisinger.edu/en/research/departments-and-centers/genomic-medicine->

395 [institute/mycode-health-initiative](https://www.geisinger.edu/en/research/departments-and-centers/genomic-medicine-institute/mycode-health-initiative)) and is available upon request. Data on patient contact with our  
396 team is summarized within this article, our patient tracking dataset contains protected health  
397 information and is not available publicly.

398 Competing interests

399 Salary support is provided to GHS staff from Regeneron pharmaceuticals. ACS is on the Scientific  
400 Advisory Board for Genome Medical and has stock in the company. HM-S, LMM, and MSL are  
401 employed by non-profit, fee-for-service laboratories that offers genetic testing.

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409 Author's contributions



410 All authors were involved in program development, design, implementation, and manuscript  
411 revision. MLBS, CZM, ALL, DML, MLGH and MFM were major contributors in drafting the  
412 manuscript. Data analysis for the results section was conducted by MLBS, ALL and LF. All  
413 authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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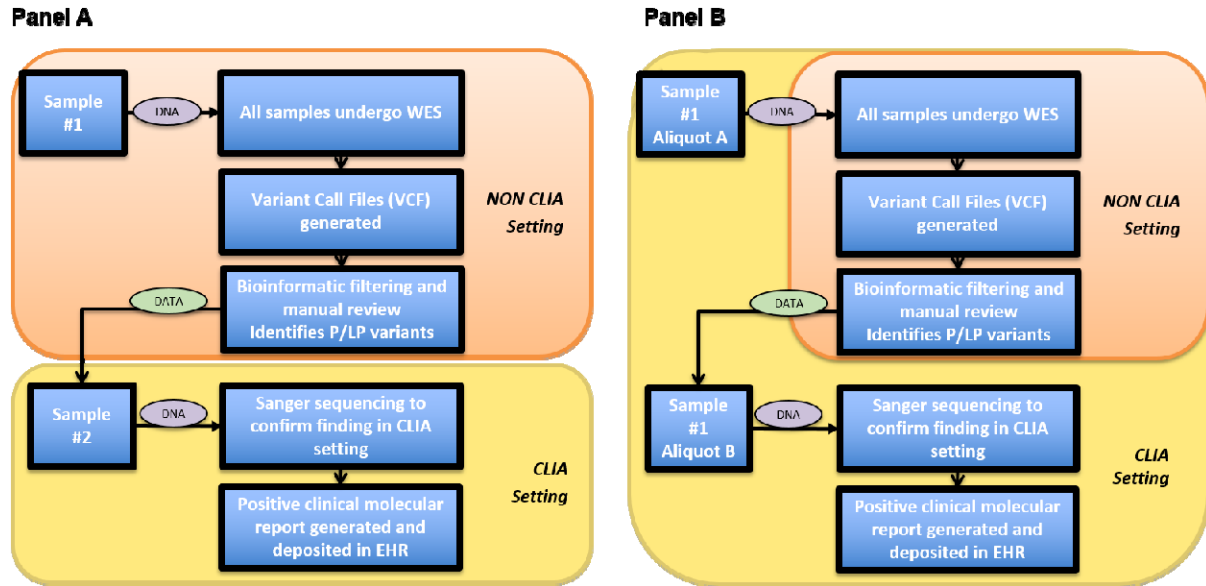
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495 **DISPLAY ITEMS:**

496 [1] Figure 1 - Clinical Confirmation of Research Results

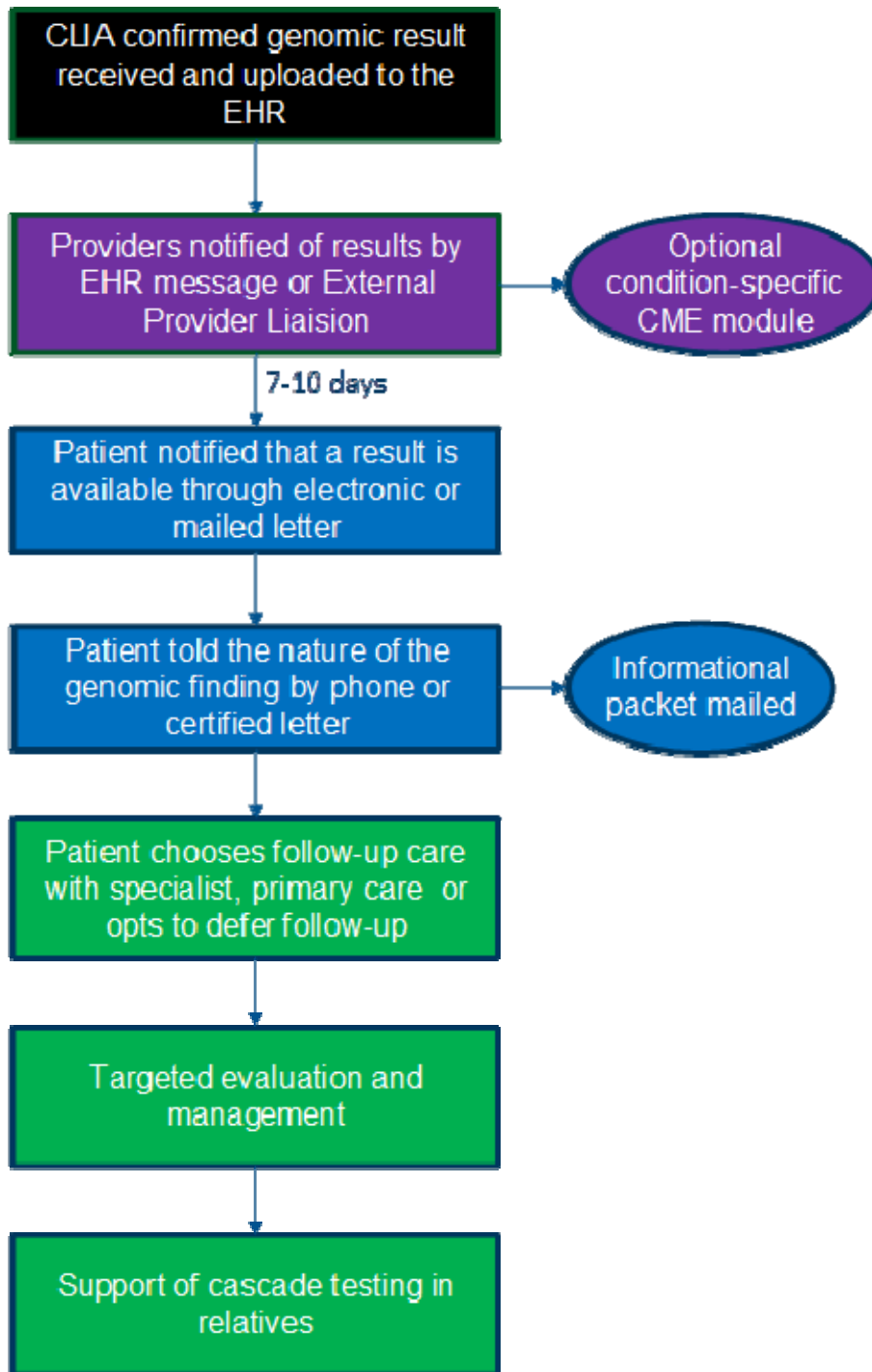


497

498 **FIGURE 1: Panel A** demonstrates the pathway for samples from participants recruited to  
499 MyCode prior to the biorepository's CLIA certification in 2013. In such cases, it is necessary to  
500 collect a second sample for CLIA confirmation. **Panel B** demonstrates the pathway for samples  
501 from participants recruited to MyCode since the biorepository's CLIA certification in 2014. In  
502 such cases a second aliquot (#1B) is sent for CLIA validation. Research results ascertained via  
503 samples #1 or #1A cannot be shared clinically until confirmed in a CLIA certified laboratory.

504 **Abbreviations:** WES = whole exome sequencing, P/LP = pathogenic/likely pathogenic, CLIA =  
505 Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments to regulate laboratory based diagnostic testing.

506 [2] Figure 2 - Participant and Physician Notification Flow



507

508 **FIGURE 2:** The result enters the EHR (black) and then the process of notifying physicians  
509 begins (purple). Participants are notified of results through a process of multiple contact  
510 attempts (blue). Participants and their relatives receive care following their result disclosure  
511 (green).

512 [3] Table 1. Resources Developed for Participants and Providers

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p>Provider Communication Following the Confirmation of a Research Result (Additional File 1 Figure 2)</p>	<p>Written notification to participant's PCP of confirmation of a research result. Includes laboratory report.</p> <p>Notification is completed through the EHR for Geisinger providers, and with a letter for providers outside of Geisinger.</p>
<p>Patient Communication Following the Confirmation of a Research Result (Additional File 1 Figure 3)</p>	<p>Initial written notification to participant that a result exists and that they can call to find out more. Sent through the patient EHR portal or mailed letter.</p>
<p>Phone Script for The Disclosure of a Research Result (Additional File 1 Figure 4)</p>	<p>Script used by research assistant for an initial standardized phone conversation with patients to disclose the nature of the result and help direct next steps for follow-up</p>
<p>Patient Communication with Result Disclosure (Additional File 1 Figure 5)</p>	<p>Written notification detailing genomic result, importance of result sharing with family, and resource information. Sent after the patient has learned the nature of the result.</p>
<p>Unable to Contact Patient Letter (Additional File 1 Figure 6)</p>	<p>Written notification sent to patients who could not be reached by phone. Mailed using certified mail along with result-specific materials.</p>
<p>Laboratory Report with Result</p>	<p>Copy of the CLIA confirmed laboratory result</p>

	report for participant record keeping
Interpretive Test Reports	Patient and provider facing electronic reports that explain the genetic result and associated condition(s). Reports are gene-specific and interface with the EHR.
Patient Communication to Family Members for Result Sharing	Letter for participant to share with family members with information on result, importance of getting tested and how to obtain testing and care. A copy of the CLIA report is copied on the back.
Family Health History Questionnaire	Condition-specific family history questionnaire to gather family medical history and detect at-risk relatives
Patient Brief Condition Fact Sheet	Condition-specific information and resources for follow-up care, mailed to patients.
Provider Condition Specific Education Modules	Condition specific education modules for CME credit to inform providers available through a Geisinger educational platform to internal providers and through MedConcert for external providers.
Provider Clinical Guidance Sheet	A brief sheet with condition-specific information to facilitate care.

513

514 [4] Table 2. Results Delivered to Patients using this Genome-First Model as of July 3, 2017

Condition Name	Number of	Gene	Number of
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	<b>Patients with Condition</b>		<b>Patients with Result in Gene</b>
Familial Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection	4	ACTA2	4
Familial Adenomatous Polyposis	1	APC	1
Familial Hypercholesterolemia	29	APOB	11
		LDLR	18
Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome	183	BRCA1	64
		BRCA2	119
Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy/Dysplasia	12	DSP	5
		PKP2	7
Marfan Syndrome	2	FBN1	2
Arrhythmia (Including Long-QT Syndrome and Brugada Syndrome)	21	KCNE1	2
		KCNH2	1
		KCNQ1	4
		SCN5A	14
Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 1	3	MEN1	3
Lynch Syndrome	22	MLH1	2
		MSH2	2
		PMS2	10
		MSH6	8
Cardiomyopathy	27	MYBPC3	14
		MYH7	4
		MYL3	3
		TNNI3	1

			TNNT2	3
			TPM1	2
Fabry Disease	1		GLA	1
Laminopathy- Familial Partial Lipodystrophy	1		LMNA	1
PTEN Hamartoma Tumor Syndrome	2		PTEN	2
Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2	11		RET	11
Malignant Hyperthermia	15		RYR1	15
Hereditary Paraganglioma and Pheochromocytoma	7		SDHB	3
			SDHC	2
			SDHD	2
Li-Fraumeni Syndrome	1		TP53	1
Tuberous Sclerosis	1		TSC2	1
<b>Total Count</b>	18	343	34	343

515

516 **Additional File 1, Word Document contains the following:**

517 Additional File 1, Table 1: Existing Gene Lists for Return Of Findings Identified On Genome  
518 Sequencing

519 Additional File 1, Figure 1: Geisinger Mycode® Community Health Initiative Consent Version 30

520 Additional File 1, Figure 2: Provider Communication Following the Confirmation of a Research

521 Additional File 1, Figure 3: Initial Patient Communication Following the Confirmation of a  
522 Research Result

523 Additional File 1, Figure 4: Phone Script- Disclosure of A Research Result

524 Additional File 1, Figure 5: Post-Phone Disclosure Patient Letter

525 Additional File 1, Figure 6: Unable to Contact Patient Letter

