

TITLE: Integrating Pharmacogenomic Testing Into a Child Psychiatry Clinic

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naturalistic studies of pharmacogenomic testing (PGX) for specific genes involved in the metabolism of antidepressant medication have recently been conducted in adult psychiatry populations. PGX testing in adult populations have shown increased medication adherence and improved patient outcomes. Nearly one in three children and adolescents suffer from mood or anxiety disorders that are severe enough to impact functioning in multiple areas of their lives. While psychotropic medications have been shown to be effective in children, it typically takes 4-8 weeks once a target dose has been reached for treatment response. Identifying the best medication options prior to treatment could substantially increase quality of care and reduce side effects. This fall the UF Child Psychiatry Clinic at Springhill Health Center, through the CTSI Pilot Project Grant, will launch the first study to examine the feasibility of PGX testing for antidepressants in a child psychiatry clinic. This study will recruit 50 children and adolescents with major depression, anxiety or obsessive compulsive disorders who are beginning treatment with a new SSRI. 25 of the children will be randomized to a treatment group who will receive the results of PGX treatment prior to starting an SSRI and 25 who will receive treatment as usual. We will assess clinician's and parent's willingness to use PGX testing, differences in side effect profiles, treatment adherence, and symptom improvements between groups. Medical students will have the opportunity to assist in data collection as well as review and analyze baseline and other measures obtained by this summer and throughout their project timeline.