



# MOLECULAR TESTING

## WHAT TO EXPECT WITH MOLECULAR TESTING

Your doctor has recommended molecular testing (also known as biomarker testing or molecular profiling) to better understand your tumor. This testing helps guide personalized treatment decisions by analyzing certain genes, proteins, or molecules unique to your cancer.

### PURPOSE OF MOLECULAR TESTING

- **Identify effective therapies** that may benefit you or were not previously considered.
- **Avoid unnecessary treatments** by identifying drugs that may not work, reducing side effects and costs.
- **Connect you with clinical trials** that match your tumor's specific characteristics.

### HOW IT WORKS

- 1. Sample Collection:** Depending on the test, a sample of your blood or tissue from your previous biopsy/surgery will be collected.
- 2. Lab Analysis:** The sample is sent to a specialized lab that performs the testing.
- 3. Results Timeline:** Results typically take 2-4 weeks, depending on the test. Your doctor will receive a detailed report and review the results with you.

## TYPES OF TESTS COMMONLY ORDERED

- **Blood-Based Test (e.g., Guardant 360, Signatera, Guardant Reveal):** Assess for circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) to monitor for residual disease, recurrence, or response to treatment.
- **Tissue-Based Tests (e.g., Caris, Tempus, MammaPrint, Oncotype):** Examine tumor genes and proteins to predict response to chemotherapy, assess recurrence risk, and guide treatment options.
- **Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) Tests (e.g., clonoSEQ):** Detect tiny amounts of cancer cells that remain after treatment, helping to monitor remission or risk of relapse.



### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- These tests are conducted by specialized labs outside of Nebraska Cancer Specialists.
- You may receive an **Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** and possibly a bill from the testing company. The EOB is not a bill; it details insurance coverage. Testing companies work with your insurance provider, including Medicare, to manage costs.

Your doctor will use the information from the test to create a treatment plan tailored to your tumor's unique characteristics. If you have questions about the process, costs, or results, your healthcare team is here to help.