Will my insurance cover this test?
Coverage depends upon your specific insurance plan. You will be responsible for any potential co-pays and deductibles. You may also need a preauthorization for the SNP microarray. Before getting the test, you should contact your insurance company to determine coverage and what your out-of-pocket costs will be, if any.

What if I have more questions?
If you have additional questions or would like more information about SNP microarray testing, ask your doctor or genetic counselor.
A genetics consultation can be scheduled at MSU by calling 517-364-5860.
What is SNP microarray?

The SNP ("snip") microarray is a test that can detect if someone has very small pieces of extra or missing genetic material. These changes within the chromosomes can cause hundreds of different conditions.

Chromosomes are found in each of the body’s cells. These chromosomes are made of tightly packaged DNA, the instructions for the body to grow and develop.

Some people can have changes within the chromosomes that result in genetic material being added or deleted from a chromosome. Individuals with extra or missing genetic material may be at risk for genetic disorders.

The SNP microarray can detect these changes and help diagnose certain types of genetic disorders.

What else could this test reveal?

The SNP microarray is unique in that it can detect if a pair of chromosomes came from only one parent or if someone’s parents are closely related.

It is also possible that the results of the SNP microarray may reveal additional and/or unexpected information about a child, parents, and/or other family members. This information could include risks for different genetic diseases with symptoms that may not be present at this time.

Why would my doctor order this test on me or my child?

Your physician may order the SNP microarray to help diagnose a genetic condition or problem. Routine chromosome analysis may not be able to detect the genetic abnormalities that can be identified by this test. Therefore, SNP microarray testing should be considered for those who have previously had a normal chromosome analysis.

This test should be considered for individuals with any of the following:

- Birth defects
- Learning disabilities
- Cognitive impairment
- Delays in development
- Growth retardation
- Unusual or different facial and/or physical features
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Other various reasons to suspect a genetic imbalance

What does the test involve?

The SNP microarray test requires a blood sample, similar to other blood tests performed in a doctor’s office. Results are usually ready in 14 to 21 days.

What if the test results are abnormal?

If results are abnormal, this may indicate that you or your child may be the carrier of, predisposed to, or have a genetic condition. With an abnormal test, formal genetic counseling is recommended to explain the results and answer your questions. Additional testing may be recommended for other family members.

What are the limitations of the SNP microarray?

A normal SNP microarray test result cannot rule out all genetic disorders. There is no single test to detect every genetic defect. It is possible that an underlying genetic problem is present but is not detectable by the SNP microarray.

Some genetic changes detected by this test are known to cause a particular disorder while others are harmless. Occasionally, the SNP microarray identifies a change that is rare or has never been seen before, making it hard to know if it is harmful or not. When this happens, it is helpful to test the parents of that individual to help understand the meaning of the genetic change.

This test can detect some but not all mosaicism. Mosaicism occurs when an individual has changes in genetic material in some of their cells, but not all. It is difficult to find this genetic change if only a small number of cells are abnormal.