

Press Release

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### **Genetic Testing and Opioid Addiction**

A recent article in USA Today discusses researchers efforts to determine who is more susceptible to substance use disorder. The question of nature versus nurture has been at the forefront of genetic testing for years. As it is done by a simple swab of the cheek, one's genetic testing may be available to understand the individuals who are more prone to addiction than others. Of course, one's DNA is more complex than that; scientists and professionals have been working hard in figuring the reasoning for some people to become addicted over another.

According to the article, the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State University will launch a longitudinal study in January 2020 – the most comprehensive look into how our genetic makeup might affect addiction. 1,500 emergency room patients will participate in the study with half of the patients using opioids and half without. The study hopes to assist doctors when deciding who to prescribe to and who may need more services regarding opioid usage. It could potentially be a key in aiding recovery and reversing many fatalities. With this opioid epidemic being a major issue, doctors have been concerned about prescribing patients pain killers as they may become addicted to them. It is a double edge sword when treating patients.

A positive outcome of researching genetically tested individuals is that those that are more prone to opioid use disorder can be offered counseling when being on certain types of medications and or prescribed pain killers. This will allow for individuals to keep their drug usage monitored and possibly be very helpful in predicting an early onset of addiction in some individuals.

USA Today is USA Today is an internationally distributed American daily. To read the full article please visit <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2019/10/04/genetic-test-warn-future-opioid-addiction/3863194002/>.

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its'Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org)