

TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA CLIPS-Genetic testing pilot aims to catch a silent killer

Dr. Darrel Gumm, vice president of [OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute](#)

Many people don't know they have familial hypercholesterolemia (FH).

"It's estimated about 1.3 million people in the United States have it [FH] and 90% of those patients don't know they have it, Dr. Gumm stresses. "So, it's a tremendous opportunity for us to step in and find those patients, identify those patients and provide therapies that may prevent terrible things from happening down the road." (:23)

The screening can help prevent heart attacks and strokes.

"One of the things I love to tell my patients is the best way to treat a heart attack is not have one. Same thing with a stroke. So, even if they've had a heart attack and survived it, now we're going to be aggressive at not letting the second one occur. But here's a chance to never let it occur in the first place. It's primary prevention ... really fantastic." (:18)

Ryan Loudermilk, strategic program manager in Performance Improvement at OSF Innovation

FH is a silent condition.

"They can be a very healthy person, think they're doing great, be a marathon runner and really they could have astronomically high cholesterol that's not of their fault," explains Ryan Loudermilk, a strategic program manager in Performance Improvement at OSF Innovation. (:13)

OSF Innovation Medical Visualization team came up with creative outreach and education.

"It's something that can be easily read on their cell phone; they don't have to log onto a computer. It's something that's eye-catching, something that's straight to the point – what your risks are, why it's important for you to get tested and checked ... thinking about family members, so it speaks to that. It speaks to the ease of this. That's the other big piece of this." (:23)

Testing will be even easier in the future.

"Where I could see this going – a patient doesn't even have to come in. These kits could actually be mailed to them, to their house and they could do the check swab themselves and get it mailed in. So, those who don't want to deal with making an appointment and seeing their provider in person, they could do a virtual visit and have the kit sent to them. That's the future of all of this." (:21)