

Genetic and molecular lab test registry

Frequently asked questions

Overview

- Our Genetic and Molecular Testing program uses the [UnitedHealthcare Test Registry](#).
- Laboratories must register their tests to participate as part of the genetic and molecular testing prior authorization/advance notification process.

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Frequently asked questions

The following questions offer information specific for labs registering genetic and molecular tests in the UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Test Registry.

What types of genetic and molecular tests are included in the test registry?

Labs can register the following genetic and molecular lab tests:

- Single gene tests
- Multi-gene panels
- Other molecular tests using genetic-based methodologies, such as gene expression profiles of tumors and multiplex PCR assays of infectious pathogens

How should I register genetic tests from my compendium?

Laboratories should register tests in the manner in which they are offered to referring physicians, whether a given test is offered as a stand-alone test or as a part of a broader panel.

Once its tests are registered, the laboratory should then bill according to both the referring health care provider's order and regulatory and UnitedHealthcare billing guidelines, which in a few cases may deviate slightly from how the health care provider ordered the test.

Can I submit more than 1 test registration at a time?

Yes. You can register either a single test or submit multiple test registrations in bulk. Refer to the Quick Reference Guide at UHCprovider.com for instructions.

Filling out registry fields

How should I categorize genetic and molecular tests when registering?

Genetics must be selected as the Master Category. The Category field should be used to identify the specific clinical area that best describes the test. Only one Category may be chosen per test.

Which Test Type should I select?

Genetic and molecular tests should generally be classified as “Single Gene” for single gene tests or “Panel” for multi-gene or multiplex PCR pathogen assays in the Test Type field. If “Other” is selected, a text description is required. The number of genes or pathogens included in the test should be noted in the Number of Genes field.

What is the GTR ID?

The [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Genetic Testing Registry \(GTR\)](#) is a free online database that provides comprehensive genetic test information voluntarily submitted by laboratories. Each test submitted to the GTR is assigned a GTR ID (an alphanumeric identifier).

We recommend that every genetic and molecular test in the UnitedHealthcare Lab Test Registry includes a GTR ID. As noted in the UnitedHealthcare [Molecular Pathology Reimbursement Policy](#), the GTR ID must be submitted with claims for all tests billed with CPT® code 81479 when an authorization has not been obtained through the advance notification/prior authorization process.

Can I register more than 1 test under a procedure code?

Yes. This scenario occurs with non-specific procedure codes (e.g., CPT 81479).

For such cases, you would register each test using the non-specific procedure code and providing additional details as to the exact nature of each test. Each test must be registered with a unique alphanumeric Test Code assigned by the laboratory.

Can I register a genetic test with a variable number of procedure codes or multiple procedure codes or units that may be billed?

No. The number of units for genetic and molecular tests must be “1” and all genetic and molecular tests should be registered with only 1 CPT code, with the exception of tests for infectious pathogens. This facilitates the advance notification/prior authorization process as well as claims adjudication.

Using a single CPT code per molecular and genetic test aligns with our [Molecular Pathology Reimbursement Policy](#). This policy does not apply to infectious pathogen testing.

Can I register genetic tests that can be ordered either as stand-alone tests or as a part of a panel?

Many laboratories offer single gene tests for certain analytes that may otherwise make up a comprehensive genetic panel. If a single gene test can be ordered by itself, it should be registered as an individual test. If the single gene test is only available as part of a larger panel, it should not be registered as an individual test.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Laboratory Test Registry, contact your Provider Advocate. If you’re not sure who your Provider Advocate is, please visit [UHC.com/contact-us/for-providers](https://www.uhc.com/contact-us/for-providers) and select your state.

If you are having system issues, call the UnitedHealthcare Connectivity Help Desk at **866-842-3278** (option 1), available Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m. CT.