

# Genetic and molecular lab testing program changes

## Frequently asked questions

### Overview

Starting June 1, 2021:

- UnitedHealthcare will manage **prior authorizations for genetic and molecular tests**, instead of Beacon Laboratory Benefit Solutions, Inc. (Beacon LBS)
- Ordering providers will use our **Prior Authorization and Notification (PAAN) self-service tool** to request prior authorization, or call **877-303-7736**
- Our Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing program will use the **UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Test Registry** and discontinue use of the Beacon Lab Test Registry
- Going forward, labs will register genetic and molecular tests in the UnitedHealthcare registry, instead of the Beacon registry
- As a courtesy, UnitedHealthcare is transferring genetic and molecular lab test information that is currently entered in the Beacon LBS Test Registry into the UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Test Registry
- Confirm your genetic and molecular lab tests in the UnitedHealthcare registry before June 1, 2021

#### Live training

Register for live training at [UHCprovider.com/testregistry](https://UHCprovider.com/testregistry).

### Frequently asked questions

You can find general information about the UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Test Registry, using the registry tool and registration status at [UHCprovider.com/testregistry](https://UHCprovider.com/testregistry). 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 genetic and molecular lab tests of:

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

#### How should I register genetic tests from my compendium?

Generally speaking, laboratories should register tests in the manner in which they are offered to referring physicians. This would include scenarios where a given test is offered as a stand-alone test or as a part of a broader panel.

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

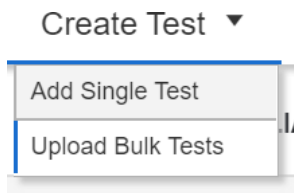


## Can I submit more than 1 test registration at a time?

Yes. You can register either a single test at a time or submit multiple test registrations in bulk.

To download the bulk registration template:

1. Select Create Test and then Upload Bulk Tests



2. Select "Download XLSX Template" and note that additional instructions and information are available for download here as well. The template itself also has additional documentation and example test registrations.

[Download PDF Instructions](#) [Download XLSX Template](#)

## Filling out registry fields

### How do I categorize genetic and molecular tests when registering?

When entering a genetic lab test, select "Genetics" as the Master Category. The Category field should then be used to identify the specific clinical area(s) within genetics that best describe the test.

### How do I select the Test Type?

Genetic and molecular tests should be categorized as "Single" 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 will be required for the Other Test Type field. The number of genes or pathogens included in the lab test should be indicated in the Number of Genes/Pathogens field.

### What is the GTR ID?

The National Institute of Health (NIH) launched the Genetic Testing Registry (GTR). GTR is a free online resource that provides a centralized location for comprehensive genetic test information that is voluntarily submitted by test providers. Each clinical 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 included in the UnitedHealthcare [Molecular Pathology Reimbursement Policy](#), the NIH GTR ID must be submitted with claims for all tests billed with CPT® code 81479 when an authorization has not been obtained through the notification/prior authorization process.

### Can I register more than 1 test for a given procedure (CPT/HCP) code?

Yes. This scenario occurs most often with non-specific procedure codes (e.g., 81407, 81479) or when a given test could be ordered both stand-alone and as part of a broader panel of testing.

For such cases, you would register each test using the non-specific procedure code (providing additional details as to the nature of the exact test).

## **Do I register a genetic test that has a variable number of procedure codes that may be billed?**

No. The number of Units for genetic and molecular tests should be “1.” All genetic and most molecular lab tests should only be registered with 1 CPT code. This helps with the notification/prior authorization process as well as claims adjudication.

Using a single CPT code per molecular and genetic test also aligns with our [Molecular Pathology Reimbursement Policy](#).

Molecular panels of infectious pathogens may include multiple procedure codes because the Molecular Pathology Reimbursement Policy doesn't apply to infectious pathogen testing.

## **Do I register those genetic tests that can be ordered either as stand-alone tests or as a part of a panel?**

Gene panels should be registered with 1 CPT code (e.g., 81479 or a more specific code that applies, such as 81413). Using multiple CPT codes for individual genes is not appropriate for registering gene panels.

Many laboratories will offer single gene tests for the elements that make up a comprehensive genetic panel because physicians will sometimes order individual specific gene testing. 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 that is also reported as a 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.



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