



# Hospital Reference Lab Protocol

Oct. 1, 2020 (April 1, 2021 for Oxford Plans)

For claims paid on or after Oct. 1, 2020 (April 1, 2021, for Oxford Plans), hospitals acting as a Reference Laboratory or conducting diagnostic testing for non-patients cannot bill for such non-patient diagnostic laboratory tests under that hospital's Facility Participation Agreement. Hospitals wishing to participate in a UnitedHealthcare commercial network as a Reference Laboratory may apply with UnitedHealthcare to be credentialed and contracted as a Reference Laboratory.

## Definitions

- **Reference Laboratory:** A laboratory that performs diagnostic testing on specimens it receives from other referring laboratories or care providers
- **Non-patient:** Is a member that is neither an inpatient nor an outpatient of a hospital, but for whom a specimen is submitted for laboratory testing to a hospital

## What hospitals need to do

To contract your hospital as a Reference Laboratory, please contact your network representative to begin the credentialing and contracting process.

Claims submitted for non-patient diagnostic laboratory tests or claims where a hospital is acting as a Reference Laboratory will be denied for failure to comply with this protocol in the event a hospital is billing under its Facility Participation Agreement.

## Questions?

If you have questions, please contact your network representative.