



Hospital reference lab protocol



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:** A member who 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.