

Genetic prior authorization penalty waiver

Overview

Effective June 1, 2021, UnitedHealthcare began managing prior authorizations for genetic and molecular tests, instead of Beacon Laboratory Benefit Solutions, Inc. (Beacon LBS). To help during the initial transition period, administrative penalties are being waived for genetic and molecular tests with a date of service from June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, where prior authorization or notification were not able to be completed.

Frequently asked questions

Who does this apply to?

The administrative waiver of genetic prior authorization penalties applies to UnitedHealthcare members with commercial or Community plans that participate in the Genetics Prior Authorization program. To find a list of participating plans and those that are excluded, please visit the UnitedHealthcare [Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification/Prior Authorization](#) webpage.

Which genetic tests are included in the prior authorization penalty waiver?

Genetic and molecular tests that require notification/prior authorization as determined by CPT® code are included in the prior authorization penalty waiver. For the most current list of CPT codes included in the genetic testing, please visit the [Advance Notification and Plan Requirement Resources](#) webpage and select the appropriate plan document. Applicable CPT codes are listed in the Genetic and Molecular Testing section of plan documents.

Will all applicable genetic tests in the Genetics Prior Authorization program be covered during the waiver period?

UnitedHealthcare will continue to follow other claims-based rule edits for genetic and molecular tests with dates of service from June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. UnitedHealthcare will not approve claims for genetic and molecular tests that are considered unproven by our medical policies. To access UnitedHealthcare genetic testing medical policies, please visit the UnitedHealthcare [Policies and Protocols](#) webpage.

Will UnitedHealthcare be checking for proof that an attempt to obtain prior authorization was made?

UnitedHealthcare requests that providers make a good faith effort to obtain prior authorization, but there will not be a check for proof that a prior authorization submission attempt was made.

What will happen with the claims?

Tests without prior authorization are typically issued a non-payment penalty with provider liability, meaning the laboratory is unable to bill the member. For applicable genetic tests without prior authorization for dates of service from June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, claims will initially be denied for lack of prior authorization, but then automatically reprocessed. We expect that this will take 6–8 weeks at most from date of claim. Reprocessing efforts are underway and started June 16. Please do not resubmit claims.