

At-home test kits

Hepatitis C, prediabetes and chronic kidney disease

Overview

We want to help support your efforts in improving your patients engagement with their preventive health care. To help address undiagnosed hepatitis C, prediabetes or chronic kidney disease, we're offering a single at-home test kit to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members who we've identified as screening candidates for one or more of these conditions. Here's why we're making these tests available to certain Medicare Advantage members:

- Chronic hepatitis C is the leading chronic liver disease in the U.S., resulting in 19,000 deaths per year.¹
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates² nearly half of the U.S. population, 65 and older, has prediabetes, or A1C levels of 5.7% to 6.4%. Unless they've been tested recently, those with prediabetes may not know they have it.
- Chronic kidney disease can cause lasting damage to the kidneys if untreated.

Key points

- We're offering at-home test kits for certain UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members to help identify and address undiagnosed diseases.
- There are no extra costs for members and test results will be shared with the member and their PCP.

Members won't need to take separate tests because a single test kit can be used to screen for all three conditions. The member's assigned primary care provider (PCP) will get a copy of the results. If any results come back positive, we'll send the member more information, which may include an opportunity to participate in UnitedHealthcare care management programs. We'll also encourage members to work with you to manage more testing, if needed, and coordinate their care.

We want to support the care you're already providing to our members who are your patients. Our goal is to help you and the members identify, diagnose and appropriately treat hepatitis C, prediabetes and chronic kidney disease. Please review these frequently asked questions to learn more about how our testing program works.

Frequently asked questions

Why is UnitedHealthcare offering at-home tests?

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage benefit plans already include coverage for these tests. We're making these tests available through at-home test kits so they're more convenient for members. One at-home test can help identify members who may be diagnosed with hepatitis C, prediabetes or chronic kidney disease. Often, these diseases go undiagnosed as they may have mild or no symptoms.

¹ CDC – [Surveillance for Viral Hepatitis – United States, 2012](#)

² CDC – [National Diabetes Statistics Report 2020](#)

Who can receive the at-home test kit?

We're focused on identifying and screening UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members who are at risk for one or more of these conditions and whose benefit plans include no cost sharing for laboratory tests. This program aims to support timely and appropriate diagnosis and is not intended to replace your care.

When we reach out to the identified member, we'll specifically suggest certain tests based on the member's clinical information through claims and other information in our records. We'll suggest a:

- **Hepatitis C** screening for members who are in the CDC-recommended age range but don't have a record of a hepatitis C test.
- **Prediabetes** screening for members who may be at risk for type 2 diabetes but who are not known to have diabetes and haven't had an HbA1c test in the past 12 months.
- **Chronic kidney disease** screening – estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) – for members who may be at risk for decreased kidney function but haven't had a kidney test in the past 12 months.

Not all members are eligible for testing. For example, members with known hepatitis C, prediabetes, diabetes or chronic kidney disease will be excluded from those respective tests. We won't offer the testing kits to members with certain other exclusions, such as end-of-life considerations.

Do at-home kits take the place of tests ordered by the member's PCP?

No. UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans already include coverage for these tests. If a member is eligible for testing, their PCP may order or administer these types of tests.

How do these services support the plan of care?

By providing at-home access to these tests, we can help reduce potential barriers to care and help you, as PCPs, address diagnostic and care opportunities for UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan members. After testing, we will connect with the member to share the results and encourage them to follow up with you, their PCP, to coordinate any additional testing (if needed) and applicable treatment plans.

How it works

How does the member request a test kit?

We use claims data to identify members who fit our criteria for these at-home test kits. We'll contact the members directly by phone, email or mail, and ask them if they're interested in using the at-home test kit. Our vendor will then mail the kit to the member's home.

The member follows the included instructions to administer the test themselves and ships the test back to the vendor. The vendor processes the screenings and reports the results to the member and their PCP.

Do UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members have out-of-pocket costs for the at-home tests?

No. The test kits and the results are provided at no extra cost to eligible members with benefit plans that include no-cost sharing for laboratory tests. Not all eligible members will receive tests and not all UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members will be eligible. We're not offering the at-home kits to members who might have to pay out-of-pocket for these tests.

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Who processes the tests?

Our vendor:

- Sends the test kit to the member
- Receives the completed test kit from the member
- Processes the tests
- Reports the results

Our vendors use CLIA-certified and CAP-accredited full-service laboratories. Our vendors are HITRUST certified, helping to ensure that patient and HIPAA-related information is protected.

Are exam results and reports sent to the member and their PCP?

Yes. After the vendor processes the test, the results will be shared with the member by phone or mail. Our vendor will also mail a copy of the member's assigned PCP by U.S. mail.

Where can members or care providers get more information?

Care providers can call us at **877-842-3210**. If patients have been contacted about the screenings and have questions about the testing process, please ask them to call the Customer Service number on the back of their member ID card. Thank you.