



UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Test Registration:

How to Prepare and Comply

Test Code Registration

Summary and Timeline

Effective January 1, 2022, United Healthcare (UHC) will require in-network, freestanding, and outpatient hospital laboratories to include the laboratory's unique test code on claims for most laboratory test services. Each test code submitted on a claim must match a corresponding laboratory test registration provided in advance to UHC, or the claim will be denied. To ensure compliance, laboratory providers subject to these requirements must self-register their laboratory tests prior to December 1, 2021. These requirements apply to most UHC Commercial, Medicare Advantage, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan networks.

As defined by UHC, a laboratory test code is the laboratory's unique identifier that is used by a physician to order a test. UHC is not specifying which values or coding method to use to uniquely identify tests. Labs are free to use their own test codes as long as the codes are in the UHC registry. Laboratories can use values that make sense to their own processes.

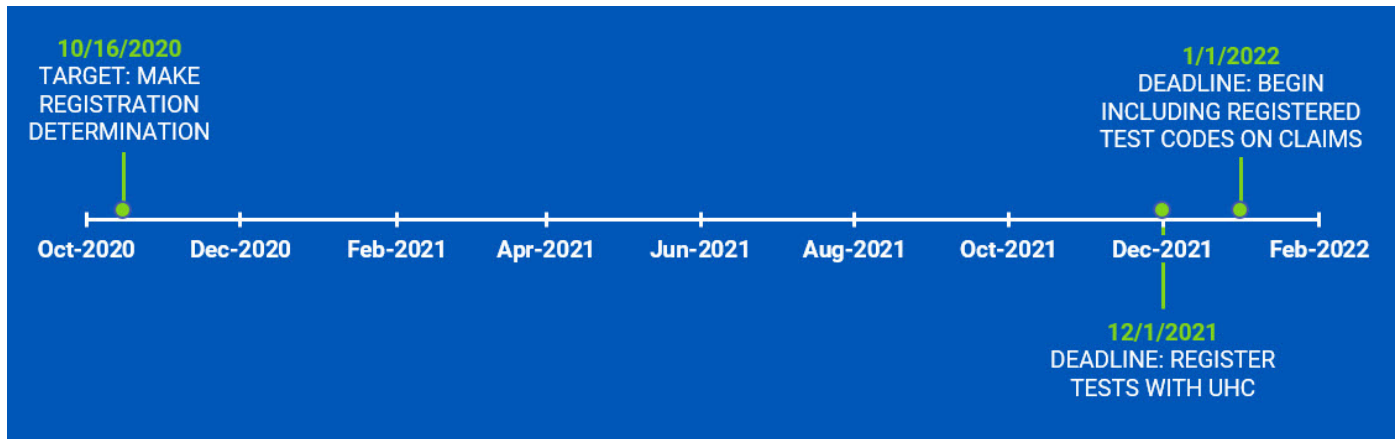
All freestanding (Place of Service 81) and outpatient (Place of Service 19 or 22, Revenue Codes 300-319 and 971) hospital laboratory testing services are included in test registration. Genetic and molecular test services subject to UHC special process or the National Institutes of Health (NIH) registration policy are excluded from registration, as are test services rendered by outpatient physician office laboratories (i.e. those billing Place of Service 11) and test services for which UHC is not the primary payer.

For more information on UHC laboratory test code registration, refer to the Quadax UHC Laboratory Test Registration webpage. The webpage includes links to additional Quadax resources and guidance from UHC. Clients can access the UHC Laboratory Test Registration webpage in the *Getting Ready For...* section of the *Quadax Portal*. After you've had a chance to review the information in this document and on the UHC webpage, your Quadax Account Executive will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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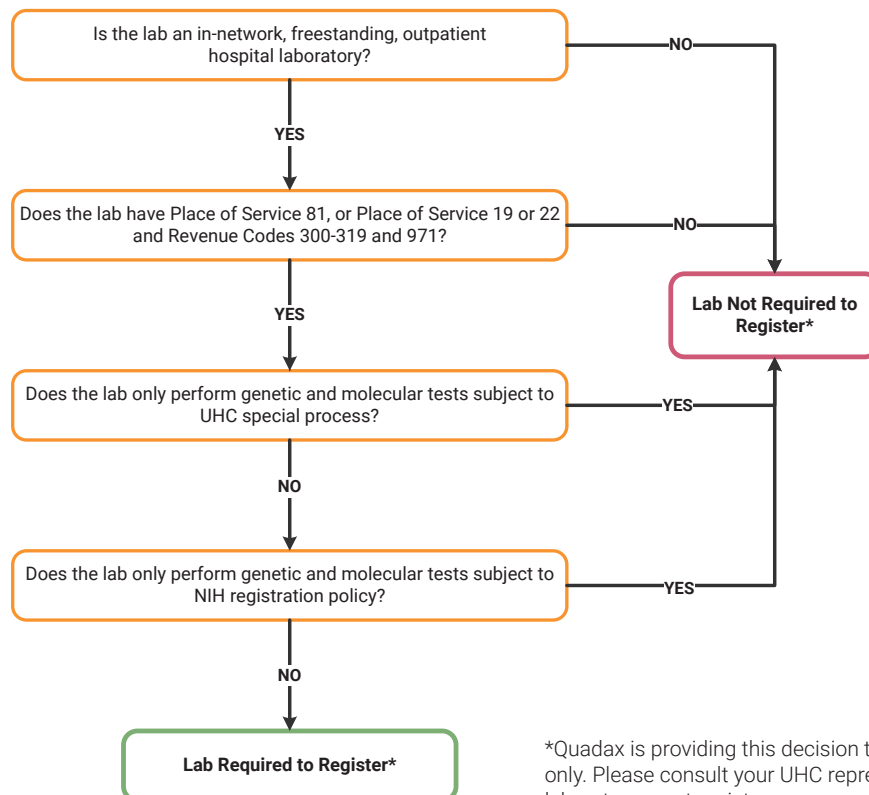
Timeline for UHC Registration



Registration Determination

To be included in UHC laboratory test code registration, a laboratory must meet the criteria outlined in the UHC Lab Test Registration Decision Tree outlined below. The UHC Lab Test Registration Decision Tree visually depicts the registration determination process. Clients must use their own judgment to determine if they must register their laboratory test codes with UHC; Quadax will not make that determination.

UHC Lab Test Registration Decision Tree



*Quadax is providing this decision tree for illustration purposes only. Please consult your UHC representative to confirm if your laboratory must register.

Tools to Assist in Determination of Registration

The UHC strategies outlined in the UHC Lab Test Registration Decision Tree are detailed below. These strategies can assist clients with each step of the registration determination process.

Is the lab an in-network, freestanding, outpatient hospital laboratory?

According to UHC, all in-network, freestanding, and outpatient hospital laboratory testing services are included in laboratory test code registration. Laboratory testing performed on an inpatient, emergency, or urgent care basis is not applicable.

Does the lab have Place of Service 81, or Place of Service 19 or 22 and Revenue Codes 300-319 and 971?

Freestanding hospital laboratory services have Place of Service 81, and outpatient hospital laboratory services have Place of Service 19 or 22 and Revenue Codes 300-319 and 971. According to UHC, all in-network, freestanding, and outpatient hospital laboratory testing services are included in laboratory test code registration.

Does the lab only perform genetic and molecular tests subject to UHC special process?

According to UHC, laboratory test services requiring notification/prior authorization by the Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification/Prior Authorization Process are excluded from laboratory test code registration.

Does the lab only perform genetic and molecular tests subject to NIH registration policy?

According to UHC, laboratory test services requiring placement of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Genetic Testing Registry (GTR) ID (per UHC's Molecular Pathology Reimbursement policy) are excluded from laboratory test code registration.

Registering Test Codes with UHC

Clients who have determined that they meet the registration criteria must register their laboratory test codes with UHC before **December 1, 2021**. Test registration can be submitted individually or in bulk through the test registry tool on Link, which is accessed at UHCprovider.com. For detailed instruction on how to register your laboratory test codes, please refer to UHC's Test Registry Quick Reference Guide.

Sending Test Codes to Quadax

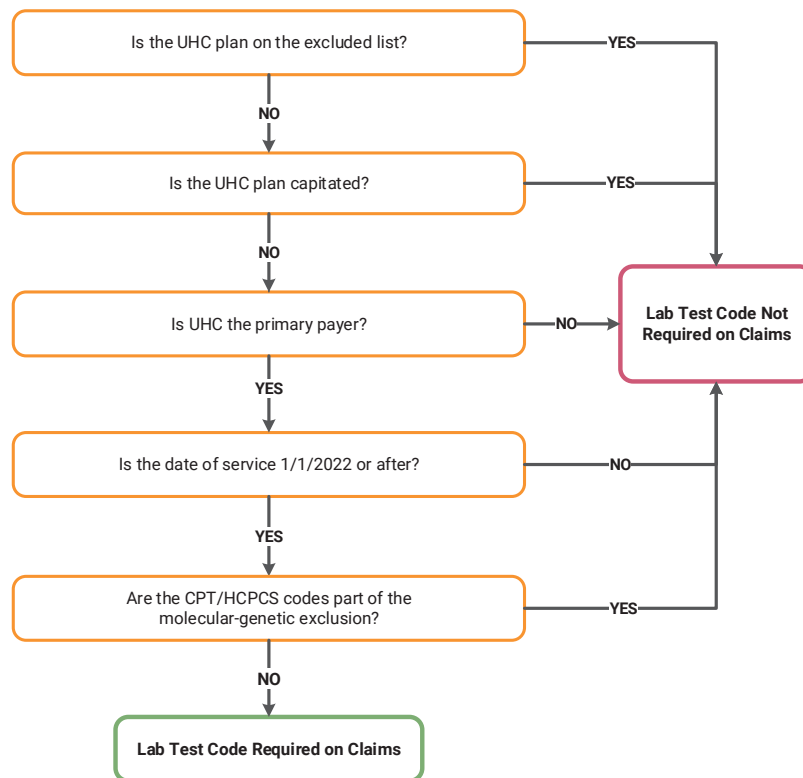
Quadax is in the process of determining how to include laboratory test codes on both electronic and hardcopy claims. However, clients are strongly encouraged **NOT** to wait until these updates have been made before registering their tests. Registration can begin now, but test codes are not required until January 1, 2022. Waiting to register could result in delays in obtaining codes and ability to comply.

Clients should provide their laboratory test codes to Quadax as soon as possible. If the client will pass laboratory test codes to Quadax in their interface file, Quadax will provide the recommended location within the file. If the client will use an interface cross-reference table to assign the laboratory test code, Quadax will provide the recommended format to populate the table.

Including Test Codes on Claims

For a laboratory test code to be required on a claim, the laboratory test must meet the criteria outlined in the UHC Lab Code Claim Criteria Tree on the following page. The UHC Lab Code Claim Criteria Tree visually depicts the criteria used to determine whether a laboratory test requires test codes on claims. Clients must use their own judgment to determine if laboratory test codes are required on claims; Quadax will not make that determination.

UHC Lab Code Claim Criteria Tree



*Laboratory test code must be registered and approved by UHC before including on the claim.

Lab Code Claim Criteria Details

The factors that determine when a laboratory test code is required on a claim is outlined in the UHC Lab Code Claim Criteria tree above. This criteria determines whether test codes should be included on claims.

Is the UHC plan on the excluded list?

The plans listed below are excluded from UHC's laboratory test registration. Claims submitted to these plans do not require laboratory test codes.

- Rocky Mountain Health Plan
- UnitedHealthcare River Valley Group
- Sierra Health and Life Insurance Co., Inc.
- Sierra Healthcare Options, Inc.
- Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.
- Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (DSNP)
- UMR – United Medical Resources
- UnitedHealthOne
- Golden Rule
- Oxford Health Plans
- Student Resources
- Medica HealthCare
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- AARP® Supplemental Plans insured by UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company
- WellMed
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Texas
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas

Is the UHC plan capitated?

According to UHC, test codes are not required on claims when billed by a capitated lab provider for a member with a capitated plan. Laboratory tests outside of a capitated arrangement require test codes.

Is UHC the primary payer?

UHC's Laboratory Test Registry Protocol only applies when the primary payer on a claim is UHC. Claims with primary payers other than UHC do not require laboratory test codes.

Is the date of service January 1, 2022 or after?

UHC's Laboratory Test Registry Protocol takes effect January 1, 2022. For dates of service on or after this date, in-network, freestanding, and outpatient hospital laboratory claims for most laboratory testing services must contain the laboratory's unique test code. Claims with dates of service prior to January 1, 2022, do not require laboratory test codes.

Are the CPT/HCPCS codes part of the molecular-genetic exclusion?

According to UHC, molecular-genetic testing is not currently in scope of laboratory test registration due to overlap with their Molecular Pathology policy, which requires that a GTR ID be placed on some claims. Additionally, molecular-genetic testing laboratories are not required to put a test ID on genetic tests that are included in the Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification/Prior Authorization program. Claims with CPT/HCPCS codes that are part of the molecular-genetic exclusion do not require laboratory test codes.

Required Actions Checklist

The actions that must be taken by Quadax and our clients to ensure compliance with UHC's requirements are listed below.

The following actions must be taken now:

- ✓ Clients must determine if their laboratory is required to register its test codes. Clients should contact their UHC representative to confirm.
- ✓ Clients must determine which unique test identifier they will use that matches the specific test being ordered and performed.
- ✓ Clients must learn how the test registration process works. Read the [UHC Laboratory Test Registry Protocol FAQs](#) and attend UHC-lead training sessions. To access the training sessions, visit [UHC's Laboratory Test Registry Protocol webpage](#) and expand the Training section.

The following actions must be taken before September 1, 2021:

- ✓ Clients and their Quadax account executives must determine what updates are needed to the interface file to pass the UHC laboratory test codes or utilize a cross-reference table.
- ✓ Quadax must update billing (HARP) and claim (EDI/hardcopy) applications to include the UHC laboratory test codes on claims.
- ✓ Clients must send test interface files to Quadax that include the UHC laboratory test code. Testing should be coordinated with your Quadax Account Executive.
- ✓ Clients and Quadax must validate that the UHC laboratory test codes properly loaded into billing (HARP) and claim (EDI/hardcopy) applications.

The following action must be taken before December 1, 2021:

- ✓ Clients must register laboratory tests through the UHC portal.

The following action must be taken on January 1, 2022:

- ✓ UHC claims for included UHC plans and HCPCS/CPTs with a date of service on or after January 1, 2022, must include registered and approved laboratory test codes.

