



Laboratory Benefit Management Program Update

After closely monitoring progress of the Laboratory Benefit Management Program and incorporating feedback from many care providers and specialty organizations over the last six months, **UnitedHealthcare will implement claims impact for the program starting April 15, 2015.** That means program requirements must be followed or claims will not be paid for certain laboratory tests.

Care providers and laboratories that must follow Laboratory Benefit Management Program requirements will be notified about the effective date in a mailed letter and in the March *Network Bulletin* available at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Tools & Resources > News & Network Bulletin. As a reminder, the Laboratory Benefit Management Program only applies to laboratory services for fully insured UnitedHealthcare Commercial members in Florida, excluding Neighborhood Health Partnership.

UnitedHealthcare used the feedback that care providers and specialty organizations shared to implement some program changes. As a result of this input and further assessment of Decision Support Test policies, the following changes were made:

1. Two tests were removed from the Decision Support Test list: prenatal profile and gestational diabetes. To view the updated list, please visit UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Tools & Resources > Policies, Protocols and Guides > Protocols > UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Benefit Management Program > Administrative Protocol.
2. The timeframe for dermatologists who perform in-office pathology services to comply with the College of American Pathologists accreditation requirement is being extended.
3. For dermatopathology, cytopathology and hematopathology, UnitedHealthcare will accept either a single review from a sub-specialist or a secondary review from an anatomic pathologist.
4. The program's Physician Decision Support tool has been integrated with four additional laboratory ordering systems and electronic medical records (EMR) applications. To view all of the applications now integrated with Physician Decision Support, please go to UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Tools & Resources > Policies, Protocols and Guides > Protocols > UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Benefit Management Program > Laboratory Ordering Systems Integrated with Physician Decision Support.

The Laboratory Benefit Management Program started Oct. 1, 2014, to help improve the quality of outpatient laboratory services, support evidence-based guidelines for patient care and lower costs for UnitedHealthcare members. According to a 2014 survey of U.S. physicians sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 85 percent say having specific, evidence-based recommendations they can use with patients would be an effective solution to help address the frequency of unnecessary tests and procedures.¹ UnitedHealthcare has been working with care providers to help ensure that Physician Decision Support complements many existing laboratory ordering systems. Physician Decision Support gives care providers real-time access to evidence-based guidelines as they order tests, while gathering critical quality information to help members make better-informed choices.

If you have not already done so, please take action now to follow the program requirements before claims impact begins. Get started by viewing the Laboratory Benefit Management Program Administrative Protocol and other resources at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Tools & Resources > Policies, Protocols and Guides > Protocols > UnitedHealthcare Laboratory Benefit Management Program.

If you have questions, please contact your UnitedHealthcare network manager or Provider Advocate. Thank you.

¹ Survey: Physicians Are Aware That Many Medical Tests and Procedures are Unnecessary, See Themselves As Solution. The ABIM Foundation, Feb. 12 – March 21, 2014.