

Instructions for Healthcare Providers

How to obtain BC MSP funding for genetic testing

The BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) offers funding for genetic testing not available in BC through the Out-of-Country Medical Services Funding Application. Healthcare providers request funding through an application process to the Ministry of Health.

HOW TO APPLY FOR OUT OF COUNTRY FUNDING AND ORDER GENETIC TESTING:

1. Complete the MSP application Out Of Country Medical Services Funding Application, and the relevant LifeLabs Genetics requisition. Please ensure that both the ordering physician and the patient have signed these forms. For patients under the age of 16, a parent or legal guardian must sign on the patient's behalf. **If the request is urgent, such as for prenatal care, clearly document this on the funding application form.**
2. Fax the completed forms directly to the Ministry of Health Services at 250-586-3278.
3. Once approved, a payment approval letter will be faxed to the ordering physician and to the LifeLabs Genetics Laboratory.
4. Provide the LifeLabs Genetics requisition forms and a copy of the payment approval letter to the patient and instruct him/her to have a blood draw at any BC LifeLabs location. A list of all collection centres can be found at www.LifeLabsGenetics.ca. Patients under 1 year of age must have their blood collected at designated pediatric locations or through their hospital.

For added convenience, a patient can have a blood sample collected and sent to the LifeLabs Genetics lab while MSP payment approval is pending. Be sure to select 'Ministry of Health Approval Pending' in the billing section of the requisition. Genetic testing will not be initiated until payment approval is received.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Although the MSP processes applications as they receive them, the approval process may take several months. Prenatal samples, however, are processed urgently. Please contact us at Ask.Genetics@lifelabs.com or 1-84-GENE-HELP (1-844-363-4357) if you plan to send prenatal samples for testing. For current application processing times, please contact the MSP department at 1-866-456-6950.
- Patients who do not wish to wait for MSP approval or who are denied coverage may pay privately for genetic tests. The patient provides their credit card information on the requisition and proceeds to a collection centre with the completed requisitions. ALL requests for genetic tests, regardless of method of payment, require a physician signature.
- MSP funding will be denied if genetic testing is performed in British Columbia.

Please visit our website at www.LifeLabsGenetics.ca for links to the MSP application forms and LifeLabs Genetics Standard Requisition form.

Ask.Genetics@LifeLabs.com

www.lifelabsgenetics.com


1-844-363-4357



How To Order Genetic Testing From Lifelabs Genetics:

LifeLabs offers over 2,000 genetic tests, including molecular diagnostics, biochemical and metabolic testing either in-house at our laboratory in Toronto or through our partner, Centogene, in Germany. LifeLabs is dedicated to providing excellent service and making molecular testing for rare diseases easily accessible to Canadians. Our team of certified genetic counsellors is available to support clinicians throughout the genetic testing process.

1. Use the search tool located on www.lifelabsgenetics.com to find the gene and test type you are interested in ordering.
2. Before you search for a test, select your province:
3. Search for the suspected condition by entering the gene, disease panel or by specific keywords. Determine whether single gene, reflex genetic testing or a genetic panel is most appropriate. Dementia panel testing is used as an example.




Search for a TEST

In order to ensure we provide you with the correct information, please select your region:

☐ I am from Ontario ☐ I am outside Ontario

CONTINUE



Search for a TEST

Please use the tool below to search for a test:

Search

We have identified your location as **Ontario**.

Panels (3)

Alzheimer dementia and dementia panel (APOE, APP, PRNP, PSEN1, PSEN2, SORL1, TREM2)

Dementia panel (APOE, APP, CHMP2B, CSF1R, FUS, GRN, MAPT, PRNP, PSEN1, PSEN2, SORL1, TARDBP, TREM2, UBE3A, VCP)

Frontotemporal dementia panel (CHCHD10, CHMP2B, CSF1R, DCTN1, FUS, GRN, ITM2B, MAPT, PRNP, PSEN1, PSEN2, SIGMAR1, TARDBP, TREM2, TUJ1)

Disease Category	Condition	Gene(s)	Test Code
Dementias	Dementia panel	APOE, APP, CHMP2B, CSF1R, FUS, GRN, MAPT, PRNP, PSEN1, PSEN2, SORL1, TARDBP, TREM2, UBE3A, VCP	CN5118

4. Make a note of the "test code" as this will be required on page 2 of the requisition. Please refer to the "tips" section below to help you navigate completing the Test Methodology section:
5. Test requisitions can be found at www.lifelabsgenetics.com. Fill out pages 1 and 2 and please ensure that the consent is signed by the patient and healthcare provider at the bottom of page 1.
6. Please ensure Billing Status is filled out on page 2. For information regarding "Provincial Funding" please contact LifeLabs Genetics.

Tips



GENETIC TESTING REQUISITION



1-844-363-4357 • Ask.Genetics@LifeLabs.com | Appointment booking ON 1-877-849-3637 | BC 1-855-412-4495 |

Schillingallee 68 • 18057 Rostock Ger

Patient Name:		Patient DOB (MM/DD/YYYY):	
Testing Instructions: Please use the online catalogue to find test code & names: www.lifelabsgenetics.com/hereditary-conditions	Test Code(s): _____		
	Test Name(s): _____		
	Test methodology <input type="checkbox"/> FULL ANALYSIS (includes sequencing AND deletion/duplication analysis if available AND repeat expansion if available) <input type="checkbox"/> Sequencing <input type="checkbox"/> Familial Mutation (Familial Report attached Y/N) <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion/Duplication analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat Expansion <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please specify: _____ Gene: _____ Mutation (HGVS): _____		
	Special Instructions (reflex order): _____		

- It is recommended to select "FULL ANALYSIS" to include ALL methodologies available for a given test. For example, with the Dementia panel test, methodologies for analysis include: full sequencing, dosage analysis (del/dup) AND repeat expansion. Clinicians also have the option to "reflex" testing where if a mutation is not found in the first methodology, analysis proceeds to the next methodology. Under special instructions if a clinician specified: "reflex 1. Sequencing, 2. Dosage, 3. Repeat Expansion", and a genetic cause was found in sequencing, there would be no charge for dosage or repeat expansion.
- There are some exceptions, where it is best to begin with deletion/duplication analysis. Individuals at LifeLabs Genetics can help you with this or this information can also be found at Genetic Test Registry by searching for the suspected condition.
- Panel vs Reflex vs Single Gene Testing
It is important to conduct a complete risk assessment (including family history analysis) before choosing a multi-gene panel. Patients may require only a single-gene test for less cost. When multiple genetic etiologies are in the differential diagnosis, a panel may save time and money.

Genetic panels are recommended when there is more than one gene associated with a condition. If a panel is unavailable, multiple genes can be selected for analysis. With reflex testing, it is best to start with the gene with the highest diagnostic yield, usually beginning with sequencing and then reflexing to deletion/duplication analysis. To determine which gene has the highest diagnostic yield and whether to begin with sequencing or deletion/duplication analysis, consult the LifeLabs genetics staff who will be happy to assist.