Instructions for Healthcare Providers: How to obtain Ontario MOH funding for genetic testing

The Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) offers funding for genetic testing not available in Ontario through the Out-of-Country (OOC) Health Services Program. Healthcare providers request MOH funding through an application process to the OOC Health Services Program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR MOH FUNDING AND ORDER GENETIC TESTING:

1. Complete the MOH application (Form 4521-84), 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.

   * There often are questions on how to fill out Part 4 on page 2 of the MOH application form. Here are some tips on how to fill out this section:

   - **Clinical Diagnosis**: Condition for which information is being sought. For example, query Alport syndrome or query carrier of genetic condition
   - **Reason service is required**: For a suspected diagnosis of an individual, you may write “Medical management and genetic counseling” as an example. For individuals determining their carrier status you may write “Family planning and future prenatal management” as an example and indicate why an individual is high risk.
   - **Please specify the laboratory test(s) required**: The MOH requires the test code AND the methodology selected. For example, if using Alport syndrome panel, you would write “CN5034 (test code available on our website search tool) - sequencing + dosage.”
   - **Yes or No check boxes**: For the check boxes, in order, the answers are “No”, “No”, “Yes”, “No” and “No”

2. Fax the completed forms directly to the MOH at 1-844-642-0202 or 416-326-2211.

3. Once approved, the MOH will fax a payment approval letter 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 LifeLabs location. A list of all collection centers 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 MOH 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 MOH processes applications as they receive them, the approval process may take several weeks. Prenatal samples, however, are processed urgently. Please contact us at Ask.Genetics@lifelabs.com or 1-844-GENE-HELP (1-844-363-4357) if you plan to send prenatal samples for testing. For current application processing times, please contact the MOH OOC department at 1-888-359-8807.

- Patients who do not wish to wait for MOH 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 center with the completed requisitions. ALL requests for genetic tests, regardless of method of payment, require a physician signature.

- MOH funding for testing performed Out of Country will be denied if genetic testing is performed in Ontario.

Please visit our website at www.LifeLabsGenetics.ca for links to the MOH 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.

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**

- 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.

---

Ask.Genetics@LifeLabs.com  www.lifelabsgenetics.com  1-844-363-4357