



Important Update: Genetic Testing Prior Authorization (PA) Requirements – Prenatal

At Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance), we appreciate our dedicated provider partner community.

We have an important update we want to share with you about prior authorization (PA) requirements for prenatal genetic testing.

Services for prenatal genetic testing require prior authorization, and these services should be completed at in-network laboratories.

The Alliance maintains an up-to-date list of codes that require prior authorization. This list is available on the Alliance website at www.alamedaalliance.org/providers/authorizations. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information about codes or benefits that require prior authorization.

For any non-standard benefit codes, the Alliance performs a medical necessity review using our Utilization Management (UM) hierarchy. Providers can access the Alliance's Milliman Care Guidelines (MCG) Criteria at <https://aah.access.mcg.com/index>.

Please see below for the list of in-network laboratories for genetic testing that are contracted with the Alliance as of 05/21/2026:

- Ambry Genetics – www.ambrygen.com
- GeneDx LLC – www.genedx.com/providers/faqs
- Quest Diagnostics – <https://testdirectory.questdiagnostics.com/test/home>

All PA requests must include complete clinical documentation from the member's requesting physician for the Alliance to make a determination. Generic Manufacturer brochures and coversheets are not sufficient documentation.

The accompanying clinical documentation should include, at a minimum:

- Specific clinical documentation showing the reason the test is medically necessary for this member, including but not limited to the race and ethnicity of the parents for the pan ethnic panels
- Documentation aligning the test with the member's specific plan of care
- Rationale for using an out-of-network lab (when applicable)

Below is a list of common codes that are being submitted to the Alliance that we would like to bring to your attention and request that you consider using these codes and/or laboratories in lieu of your current practices when it is clinically appropriate for your patients.

Current Code Being Used	Suggested (Alternative) Code(s)	Recommended In-Network Laboratory	Notes
81443 Broad genomic panel	QHerit expanded Carrier Screening Test may be used in lieu of 81443	Quest	81443 is a non-standard benefit – Provider must submit documentation showing this is medically necessary and why standard testing is insufficient. Alliance in-network laboratories have the capability to run this test; therefore, requests for out-of-network providers would be reviewed and potentially redirected back to in-network.
81420 Aneuploidy Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT)		Quest	No PA request is required for this test when an Alliance in-network laboratory is utilized. Alliance in-network laboratories can run this test; therefore, requests for out-of-network providers would be reviewed and potentially redirected back to in-network.
81423 Microdeletion NIPT			Non-standard benefit – Provider must submit documentation to demonstrate that this is medically necessary and why standard testing is insufficient.
81200, 81400, 81401, 81405, 81408, 81161, 81220, 81243, 81251, 81255, 81257, 81260, 81329, 81361 Horizon 14	Prenatal Carrier Panel (81220, 81329, 81361)	Quest Gene DX	81220 (CFTR), 81329 (SMN1), and 81361 (HBB Gene Common Variant) are the only three (3) codes covered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). These codes do not require a PA for In-Network Laboratories. The remaining codes are Non-Standard Benefit Codes and will be reviewed for medical necessity and in-network availability.
0449U Carrier Screening for Severe Inherited Conditions	QHerit carrier screening GenomeDx Prenatal trio	Quest GeneDx	Non-Standard Benefit- Provider must submit documentation showing this is medically necessary and why standard testing is insufficient. Alliance in-network laboratories can run this test; therefore, requests for out-of-network providers would be reviewed and potentially redirected back to in-network.

Please Note: The Alliance will continue to review all submitted codes.

Questions? Please call the Alliance Provider Services Department
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5 pm
Phone Number: **1.510.747.4540**
www.alamedaalliance.org