



# **Charging for Laboratory Tests**

**1 July 2020**

**Not all patients are eligible for HealthPAC  
funded laboratory tests**

**This protocol outlines when patients must be  
charged, the amount to be charged and the  
payment options available for patients not  
eligible for health funding**

**Note: Having an NHI does *not* guarantee eligibility**

## When should a patient be charged?

Citizens of New Zealand, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau have automatic eligibility for “free” testing on most diagnostic test requests ordered by an appropriately registered NZ-based doctor, midwife or nurse practitioner. However, a number of important exceptions exist.

### Payment is always required when *any* person:

- has testing relating to a **visa** or **immigration permit**
- has an **insurance** health check (e.g. hepatitis status; HIV status; lipids)
- is having **non-diagnostic** testing done (e.g. checking immune status related to vaccination, travel or student enrolment requirements; sporting club clearances; blood grouping unrelated to transfusion; anti-aging and weight loss programs)
- has **employment-related** checks (e.g. lead or mercury levels; pilot medicals; MRSA checks; infectious disease screening). This includes *pre*-employment tests
- have been referred by a **dentist** or an alternative health provider
- are **self-requesting** tests

### Non-New Zealand citizens are also charged for all tests unless:

- they are a resident of The **United Kingdom** or **Australia** having **urgent** care (reciprocal arrangements exist). Note: This rule does *not* apply to sexual health screens on asymptomatic patients
- they have a current **work permit valid for at least two years**; or renewed work permits totalling at least two years
- they have **refugee status** (or are in the process of applying for refugee status)
- they are having **maternity care** (includes pre- and post-natal) *and* their partner is a NZ resident or meets work permit requirements
- the testing relates to an **accident** (in which case it is covered by ACC)
- they are a student funded under **NZAID**, an **ODA scholar** or a **Commonwealth Scholarship** holder
- they are the **spouse or dependent child** (aged 19 or under) of an **ODA scholar**
- Note: Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau residents are considered NZ Citizens

This information is a brief summary of the rules; for more details go to:

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility>

## How much should patients be charged?

The price lists in this booklet provide the costs of our most common tests, including GST (tax). More copies of this booklet may be obtained by contacting our accounts department.

Prices for tests carried out by Canterbury Health Laboratories may be found at:

<https://www.chl.co.nz/>

## What options are there for payment?

Payment is required at the time of specimen collection and may be forwarded to Southern Community Laboratories with the patient's specimens.

Alternatively a commercial account can be set up for a medical centre, to be invoiced monthly for payments collected on our behalf. To set up an account, contact our accounts department using the contact details at the bottom of this page.

EFTPOS facilities are now available at most of our collection centres. For addresses of collection centres see our website: <https://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/blood-test-rooms>

The SCL bank account for direct payments is **01-0906-0090006-00** (ANZ Bank).

**Payment is always required at the time of specimen collection for self-requested tests.**

## How are results reported?

Tests requested by registered referrers are reported by HL7, hard copy, fax or other method as agreed upon with the referrer.

Self-requested tests are reported by email or posted as arranged with the patient.

**If requests for non-funded tests are received *without proper payment*, the referrer or patient will be notified as appropriate. Unless payment is received within 48 hours the samples will be discarded without processing.**

Prices for all other tests are available from  
the accounts receivable department

Telephone: (03) 474 8341

Email: [accounts\\_receivable@sclabs.co.nz](mailto:accounts_receivable@sclabs.co.nz)

Test Description	Includes	Price Incl. GST
<b>Admin Fee (Send-away Tests)</b>		\$24.50
<b>Albumin</b>	Total Protein	\$12.50
<b>Alcohol (diagnostic purposes only)</b>		\$15.00
<b>Alkaline phosphatase</b>		\$13.00
<b>Allergy tests (EAST, RAST), per allergen</b>		\$52.00
<b>Allergy tests (skin prick), per panel (food or inhalants)</b>		\$11.50
<b>Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP)</b>		\$31.00
<b>ALT</b>		\$13.00
<b>ANA (antinuclear antibodies) including titre</b>		\$29.00
<b>Antenatal, first screen, including HIV</b>	CBC, Blood Group & Antibody Screen, Rubella, HbA1c, Hep B Ag, HIV, Syphilis	\$197.50
<b>Antenatal, subsequent screen</b>	CBC, Blood Group & Antibody Screen	\$48.00
<b>Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH)</b>		\$69.50
<b>APTT</b>		\$19.50
<b>Aspirate (fluid culture and microscopy)</b>		\$76.00
<b>AST</b>		\$11.00
<b>Bence Jones protein (urine electrophoresis)</b>		\$101.50
<b>Beta-HCG (pregnancy test or tumour marker)</b>		\$29.50
<b>Bilirubin (Total AND Direct)</b>		\$16.00
<b>Bilirubin (Total)</b>		\$12.50
<b>Blood culture (per bottle)</b>		\$50.50
<b>Blood group</b>	ABO & Rhesus	\$22.50
<b>BNP</b>		\$60.50
<b>Bone marrow aspirate (trephine &amp; analysis)</b>		\$584.50
<b>Brucella antibodies</b>		\$33.50

Test Description	Includes	Price Incl. GST
Calcium (includes albumin)	Albumin	\$22.50
Cardiolipin antibodies		\$34.50
CCP antibodies		\$34.50
Cervical cytology (SurePath smear)		\$48.50
Chlamydia and gonorrhoea PCR (Aptima swab/urine)		\$60.00
Clostridium difficile (faeces)		\$58.00
CMV (cytomegalovirus) antibodies		\$69.00
CMV (viral load)		\$112.50
Coagulation screen (PT/INR, APTT, fibrinogen)		\$70.50
Coeliac screen		\$43.50
Complete blood count		\$28.50
Coombs test (direct antiglobulin test)		\$14.00
Copper		\$41.50
Cortisol		\$26.50
Cortisol stimulation (Synacthen® test)		\$35.50
Creatinine		\$8.50
Creatinine (urine)		\$11.50
CRP		\$17.00
D-dimer		\$37.00
DHEA-S		\$71.50
Digoxin		\$18.50
Draw Fee (lab-bleed patients only)		\$14.00
Drug screen collection fee (evidential urine test; where offered)		\$82.00
EBV (Epstein-Barr virus) serology		\$69.00
Electrolytes	Sodium, Potassium	\$15.00

Test Description	Includes	Price Incl. GST
Electrophoresis (serum protein)	Albumin, Total Protein	\$59.50
EMA		\$34.50
ENA		\$34.50
Environmental swab		\$34.50
ESBL screen (faeces or swab)		\$34.50
ESR		\$20.00
Faecal calprotectin		\$133.50
Faecal culture and parasites (1 faecal sample)		\$115.00
Faecal giardia and cryptosporidium		\$119.00
Faecal ova & parasite exam, non-PCR (up to 3 faecal samples)		\$46.50
Ferritin		\$17.00
Fibrinogen		\$24.50
Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA)		\$245.00
Free T3		\$15.00
Free T4		\$15.00
FSH		\$24.50
GGT		\$12.50
Glucose		\$11.00
Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c)		\$32.50
GTT (50g gestational diabetes screen) Polycose Glucose		\$27.00
GTT (75g standard screen)		\$31.50
Haemochromatosis gene mutation (HFE)		\$87.50
Handling fee (samples sent to another lab, e.g. CHL, LabPLUS)		\$24.50
Helicobacter pylori antibodies		\$49.50
Helicobacter pylori antigen (faeces)		\$94.50
Hepatitis A IgG or IgM (each)		\$24.00

Test Description	Includes	Price Incl. GST
Hepatitis B (e) antigen (HBeAg)		\$24.00
Hepatitis B core antibody (anti-HBc)		\$24.00
Hepatitis B PCR (viral load)		\$314.50
Hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs)		\$24.00
Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)		\$24.00
Hepatitis C antibody		\$26.50
Hepatitis C PCR (viral load)		\$218.00
Histology		\$218.00
Histology — block retrieval		\$36.00
Histology — IHC stains (each)		\$58.00
HIV antibody		\$24.00
HIV PCR (viral load)		\$559.50
HLA-B27		\$83.00
HSV/VZV PCR (swab)		\$57.00
IgE (total)		\$18.50
IMMIGRATION STANDARD PANEL (includes confirmations)	CBC, Creatinine, HbA1c, Hep B Ag, Hep C Ab, HIV, Syphilis	\$164.00
Immigration test administration fee		\$24.50
Immunoglobulins	IgA, IgG, IgM, IgE	\$16.50
INR (prothrombin ratio)		\$26.50
Insulin		\$49.00
Iron Studies	iron, ferritin, transferrin	\$40.50
Lipase		\$17.50
Lipid group	cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL, LDL	\$38.50
Lithium		\$21.00
Liver Function Tests		\$51.00
Luteinising Hormone (LH)		\$15.00
Magnesium		\$10.50
Malaria screen		\$130.00

Test Description	Includes	Price Incl. GST
Maternal Serum Screen (MSS1)		\$183.00
Measles IgG antibody (immune status)		\$35.50
Microalbumin (urine albumin/creatinine ratio)		\$23.00
MRSA (per swab)		\$24.50
Mumps IgG antibody (immune status)		\$35.50
Mycology/fungal culture (skin, hair or nails)		\$76.50
Non-gynaecological cytology (all but sputum)		\$97.50
Non-gynaecological cytology (sputum)		\$96.00
Oestradiol		\$26.50
Phenytoin (Dilantin®)		\$23.50
Phosphate		\$12.00
Progesterone		\$28.50
Prolactin		\$33.00
Protein		\$13.00
Protein (24-hour urine)		\$24.50
PSA (total)		\$17.50
QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus		\$86.00
Rabies		\$52.50
Reticulocyte count		\$25.50
Rheumatoid factors		\$29.00
Rotavirus (faeces)		\$43.50
Rubella IgG antibody (immune status)		\$28.00
Rubella IgM (infection)		\$35.50
Seminal fluid, fertility		\$55.00
Seminal fluid, post-vasectomy		\$22.50
Send-away fee (per request)		\$24.50



Test Description	Includes	Price Incl. GST
Sputum culture (not TB)		\$54.50
Sputum Culture - TB	3 Specimens required	\$96.50 each
Streptococcal antibodies (ASO)	ASOT, ANTISTREP ANTIBODIES	\$121.00
Swab for culture (all sites; each)		\$43.50
Syphilis		\$24.00
Testosterone (female or male under 18)		\$85.50
Testosterone (male over 18)		\$30.00
Thalassemia screen		\$337.50
Theophylline		\$20.00
Thyroid antibodies	anti-TG and anti-TPO	\$25.50
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)		\$15.00
Toxoplasma serology		\$129.00
Trichomonas vaginalis PCR (Aptima swab/urine)		\$75.50
Troponin		\$32.00
Urea		\$9.00
Uric Acid		\$12.00
Urine culture		\$31.00
Valproate (Epilim®)		\$23.50
Varicella zoster IgG		\$35.50
Vitamin B12 and folate		\$23.50
Vitamin D		\$55.00
Zinc		\$41.50

**Please note all send-away tests include an additional fee of \$24.50 which covers shipping and handling**

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