Checklist for nephrologists requesting Medicare-funded genetic testing

Genetic counsellors are available to support you. Visit **kidneygenomics.org.au** to find your closest genetics expert.

STEP 1: Check eligibility

- ✓ Check for previous genetic testing – if previous testing in patient or family **DO NOT PROCEED**
- ✓ Call the GC support line on **0417 115 780**, or you can email kidneygenetics@monashhealth.org
- ✓ Use the decision aid and traffic light tool to confirm eligibility and required turnaround time.[1]
- ✓ Check that the test is MBS rebatable.[2]

STEP 2: Consent the patient

- ✓ Discuss all aspects of consent and provide factsheet to patient. Download patient fact sheet and see health professionals guide to obtaining consent for testing.
- ✓ Complete clinical consent form for genomic testing.
- ✓ Scan or file the signed consent form in the patient's medical records.

STEP 3: Order the test

- ✓ Identify an accredited laboratory and clarify specimen requirements[3]. Here are order forms for recommended laboratories: The Royal Melbourne Hospital (PDF) and VCGS (online form) (note blood collection can be performed at any laboratory[4].
- ✓ Complete clinical details[5], referrer details[6] and test request[7].
- ✓ Attach completed consent form to the request.

Additional notes

Note: ONLY request Alport syndrome panel if patient has haematuria AND specific features for Alport syndrome. All other patients for Alport testing should have Kidneyome superpanel (item 73402) requested. Not sure which one to pick? This decision aid can help.

Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance

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Monash Health · The Royal Melbourne Hospital · The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne · Austin Health

Please contact your local genetic counsellor if you need clarification or have any feedback about this tool. Visit kidneygenomics.org.au for more information and contacts for the Kidney Genomics Multidisciplinary Team and the Genetic Counsellor support line.

Footnotes

1. Standard turnaround time for genomic testing is 3 months. Testing may be able to be expedited by (TAT around 1 week if required) please contact your local genetic counsellor hotline for advice. Indications for urgency include high-cost drug, invasive investigation (or biopsy) that may be avoided with a timely result, imminent reproductive decision-making implications.
2. There are two criteria for making pathology testing Medicare billable:
   a. The test bring ordered is considered eligible for Medicare (as determined by the clinician): and
   b. The patient is Medicare eligible and episode of care is considered private.

   MBS funding for Renal Diagnostic Genetic Testing

   Note that funding is such that laboratories can currently only provide testing on a WES backbone. This means that this testing will not identify genetic changes due to copy number variants (i.e. exon or gene deletions). If there is a strong clinical suspicion of the condition but the test does not identify a genetic cause, then further testing to look for CNVs may be warranted.
3. Specimen requirements:
   - Blood is preferable in adults.
   - EDTA blood sample, Adult: 5mL, Child: 1-3mL
   - Saliva kits are available through VCGS online request system
4. If using alternative laboratory, clarify any mandatory requirements with relevant laboratory. This may include a consent form, test, specific laboratory pathology form and specimen type (for RMH and VCGS, this is specified on the order form).
5. Give as much clinical info as possible. If suspicious of specific dx, include this here. If suspecting a specific gene, or gene list, document request here. Gene lists can be reviewed at PanelApp.
6. For nephrologists at RMH, RCH, Austin, and Monash, please copy in your local genetic counsellor.
7. Choose between three test requests:
   - Alport panel (item number 73298)
   - Cystic kidney disease super panel (item number 73401)
   - Kidneyome super panel (item number 73402)

   Specific features of Alport syndrome include one of the following: high-tone sensorineural hearing loss, eye signs such as perimacular flecks or anterior lenticonus.