

Northland Pathology is contracted by the Northland DHB to provide laboratory testing to patients in the community where the person is a New Zealand citizen or otherwise eligible for funded health services and the testing meets eligibility criteria.

In accordance with the Health and Disability Services Eligibility Direction 2011, patients are eligible for funded health services in New Zealand if they meet the criteria of 1 or more of the following categories:

NZ Citizen

- Includes people from the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau

Holders of visas

- They hold a residence class visa;
- They hold an interim visa and immediately before being issued the interim visa they were eligible for funded services;
- They have a current work visa valid for 2 years or more, or renewed continuous work visas totalling 2 years or more (can combine current work visa with other visa/permit held immediately prior that totals 2 years or more);

Australian persons

- An Australian citizen who has been or intends to be in New Zealand for 2 years or more;
- They hold a current permanent residence visa (or resident return visa) issued by the Government of Australia and have been or intend to be in New Zealand for 2 years or more;
- An Australian resident requiring urgent hospital or maternity services or pharmaceuticals – as determined by the provider of medical treatment (*note: patients will be charged unless the provider indicates eligibility for funded testing*);

United Kingdom persons

- A UK national who is ordinarily resident in the UK and in NZ on a temporary basis and requiring urgent medical care as determined by the medical practitioner (*note: patients will be charged unless the practitioner indicates eligibility for funded testing*);

Refugees, protected persons and victims of trafficking in people offences

Students and participants in certain schemes

- NZ Aid Programme student studying in NZ and receiving Official Development Assistance funding;
- Commonwealth Scholarship student;
- Participant in a Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship scheme;

Children

- In the care & control of a parent or guardian who is eligible;
- They are eligible to receive Well Child/Tamariki Ora services;

Partners

- Partners of NZ Aid Programme students;

Pregnant women

- Having Maternity care (includes miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, antenatal, maternity and post-natal care) and their partner is eligible for funded services or their unborn child will be eligible as a NZ citizen;
- Infected with HIV – blood tests for HIV viral load

Public health, emergency, compulsory services

Personal injury

- The testing relates to an accident, in which case it is covered by ACC (an ACC claim no. must be provided);

Prisoners

- they are a prison inmate or on remand

Note: Patients are required to provide evidence of their eligibility for funded services if not indicated on the referral

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

The following testing is chargeable for all patients:

Immigration and visa applications

- Note:*
- Further testing or follow-up for immigration purposes is always charged.
 - Further testing or follow-up for medical purposes is not charged for patients who are eligible for funded testing. Non-eligible patients are always charged.

Commercial accounts, e.g.

- Insurance companies
- WINZ – patient must provide proof that WINZ will pay for their testing
- Special studies and other negotiated commercial contracts

Insurance or superannuation-related testing

Wellness tests, anti-aging tests

Pre-employment or work-related testing, e.g. immune status, MRSA screening

Note: Check whether the patient is to pay or the employer/company is to be invoiced

Workplace screening for occupational exposure, e.g. lead, arsenic, mercury

Note: Investigation of suspected poisoning is not charged

Health check / clearance for issue of licences, e.g. pilots

Health check /clearance for sports, e.g. boxing

Immune status checks

- Pre-travel checks for vaccination or Visa application
- Clearance for students or work-experience placement, e.g. nursing, occupational therapy, medicine
- Other 'certification' purposes

Note: Testing for Public Health purposes is not charged.

Pre or post-travel wellness checks

Note: Post-travel follow up for symptomatic patients is not charged if they are eligible for funded testing

Drug screening

- Drug screening for clinical management is funded testing (not charged) for eligible patients.
- Evidential drug testing services are not provided thru Northland Pathology
- School students – refer requestor to Labplus for program details
- Evidential testing

Non-standard referrers, e.g.

- Veterinary testing
- Dentists, other than dental surgeons
- Podiatrists, physiotherapists, osteopaths, naturopaths

Self-referred tests / patient requested tests

Note: Restricted range of tests allowed to be requested.

Rabies serology