

Lab Ordering Procedures

Lab ordering and payment processes can vary significantly based on the lab companies you use and your practice's individual preferences. Here's a brief overview of some of the ways you can order labs for your practice.

LABCORP OR QUEST

When ordering lab work for a patient through Labcorp or Quest, you can either:

- Hand a manual requisition form to your patient, and instruct them to bring it to the lab.
- Create a lab requisition form from within your electronic health record, and ask your patient to print and bring a copy with them to the lab on the day of their test.

In most cases, Labcorp or Quest will handle billing and payment directly with the patient.

THIRD-PARTY FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE LABS

For third-party Functional Medicine labs (Doctor's Data, Genova Diagnostics, etc.), there's a lot more variability in the ordering and payment processes. Depending on the lab, your practice may be able to order the labs or test kits via an online portal or by phone, fax, or email. Many lab companies give you the option to ship the test kits to your office or to drop-ship the test kits directly to your patients.

- If you're seeing patients in person and have space for inventory, you may choose to stock a certain number of test kits so you can hand them to your patients as needed. In this case, generally, the patients will pay you for the test kits, and you'll pay the lab.
- If you're practicing virtually, or if you don't have the space or desire to store test kits, the drop-ship option may make more sense. In this situation, you'll usually charge the patient, place the order, and pay the lab company, and then the lab will ship the test kit directly to your patient.

As for when payment is required, some labs will charge your practice at the time of your order, while others will wait until the lab receives the samples or the results are released to your practice. Make sure to check with each individual lab company to verify their ordering, payment, and shipping practices.