



## New law against genetic discrimination now in effect

*Bill S-201: An Act to prohibit and prevent genetic discrimination* received Royal Assent and is now law.

The legislation makes it illegal for anyone to require individuals to undergo genetic testing or to collect, use or disclose the results of genetic tests, as a condition of providing a product or service. This includes insurance coverage.

While the law is new, Great-West Life has always followed the CLHIA Industry Code on Genetic Testing, which states that insurers won't require clients to undergo genetic testing as a condition of insurance coverage.

Great-West won't request, collect, use or disclose genetic test information from individuals applying for coverage. We'll continue to apply other standard underwriting processes as appropriate, including obtaining other medical information normally required to assess insurability.

### Existing genetic information

We'll continue to retain existing genetic test information for existing clients in accordance with our records retention policies, as it was used for decisions made prior to the Bill coming into effect.

We are putting processes in place to ensure this legacy data won't be used for those individuals who may apply for new coverage.

### Impact on prior authorization process

Our prior authorization program has a specific list of drugs that require medical information before eligibility can be assessed. This helps ensure the plan is paying for drugs when they represent reasonable treatment.

Great-West has amended our prior authorization program and will no longer require that a plan member undergo, or disclose the results of, a genetic test.

However, to allow us to ensure that the drug(s) requested represent reasonable treatment, we may, where appropriate, ask the requesting physician to confirm that the drug has been prescribed in accordance with its Health Canada approved indication.

### Questions

If you have any questions related to genetic testing or this legislation, please contact your Great-West group representative, or send an email directly to [GeneticTestingGWL@gwl.ca](mailto:GeneticTestingGWL@gwl.ca).

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