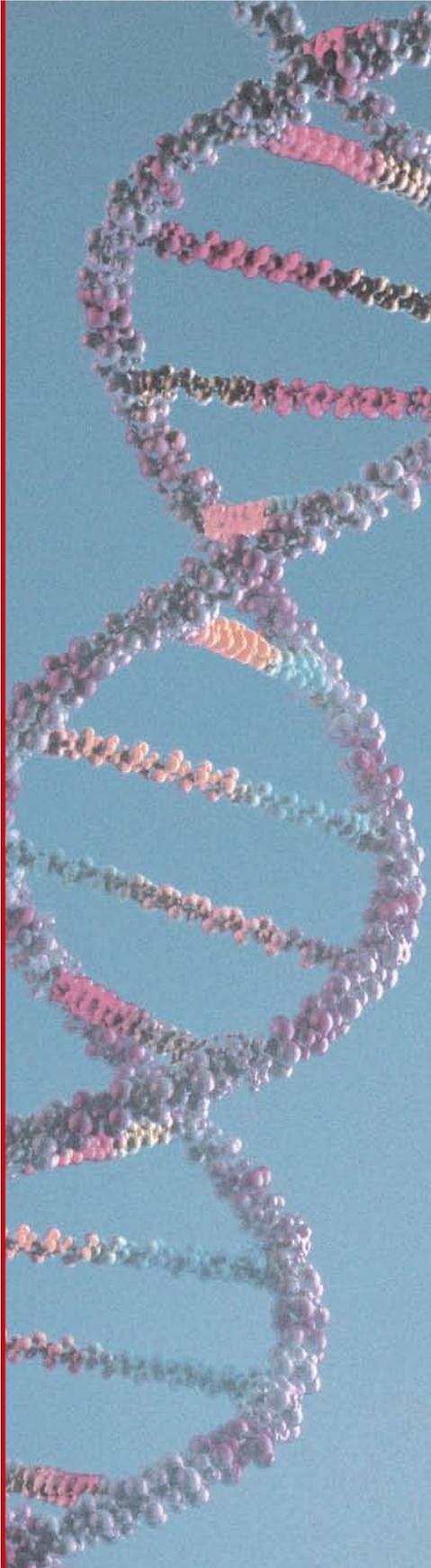


Guidelines for Molecular Genetic Testing Good Practices



On June 12, 2009 a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports (R&R) was published on Good Laboratory Practices for Molecular Genetic Testing for Heritable Diseases and Conditions. The MMWR report provides the recommendations of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) for good laboratory practices in the areas of molecular genetic testing that has been recognized as needing specific guidance for complying with applicable requirements in the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) regulations, or as needing quality assurance measures in addition to the general CLIA requirements.

What information in this MMWR document is relevant to health professionals?

This report is intended to be used as a resource for health professionals to aid in their use of molecular genetic tests and test results in health assessment and care. Issues directly relevant to healthcare professionals include the following:

- The laboratory's responsibility for providing information necessary for test selection, test request, and specimen submission;
- The laboratory's responsibility for documenting informed consent for the test being requested, when required by state and local requirements;
- Information that the laboratory needs to solicit on test requests;
- Information that the laboratory needs to provide regarding specimen submission, handling, and referral;
- Information that the laboratory needs to provide on test reports;
- The recommended retention timeframe for test reports, to facilitate follow-up testing, testing of family members, and the possibility of retesting;
- The laboratory's responsibility regarding persons authorized to order and receive test results; and
- The laboratory's policies for ensuring confidentiality of patient information.

For additional information go to:
<http://www.cdc.gov/dls/moleculartesting>

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