

Informal summary of the requirements of the LAGH / GUMG concerning the prescription of human genetic analytical tests.

	Diagnosis	Prenatal	“Family planning” (risk for future generations)	Presymptomatic
Prescription	Medical doctor of any specialty, with completed postgraduate training (or supervised by same). Although details are not specified, this practically implies FMH title-holders or equivalent.	As for Diagnostic, with the additional requirement of “adequate postgraduate training”. The training has not yet been defined. It may imply, for example, “within the doctor’s own specialty” or training in medical genetics may be required.		
Informed consent	Obligatory before all genetic testing. Written consent is not required: a note by the prescriber in the patient record is sufficient.	Written informed consent is obligatory before these genetic tests. In the case of prenatal testing, informed consent (which may be verbal, not written) is required not only before conventional genetic tests but also before other laboratory and even ultrasonographical analyses, performed to evaluate a risk of genetic anomaly in the embryo or foetus.		
Counselling	Not explicitly required by the law. However, the requirement for prior informed consent implies some form of pre-test counselling.	Is explicitly required before and after all tests. “Sufficient” time for reflection must be allowed between counselling and testing, in all situations. The information that must be given during counselling is detailed in the Law (Art. 14.3), and includes: the aims and significance of the test the possible risks of the test the frequency and types of anomalies sought the possibility of unexpected results the possible physical and psychological repercussions cost and coverage the support available according to the result the severity of the potential anomalies and the therapeutic/prophylactic measures available. In the case of prenatal testing, the pregnant woman must receive this counselling (in the presence of her partner if possible), and must be explicitly informed of her right to self-determination and of the alternatives to pregnancy termination. The 26 cantons must ensure that independent services for prenatal counselling and information exist.		