

Provider FAQs

Who is United Allergy Services?

United Allergy Services is a medical services company that specializes in providing fully-staffed and operational allergy centers inside qualified provider offices. UAS manages the functional aspects of your allergy center and lets you manage the clinical side. You can provide the full array of allergy testing and immunotherapy for your patients in your own office.

What is my initial investment for installing an allergy center?

There is no up-front financial investment required from you. You medically supervise UAS personnel within the allergy center and make all medical decisions for your patients. UAS only provides allergy services to the patients that you recommend for allergy testing and that you approve for immunotherapy. You provide space and accommodations for UAS staff including a full size refrigerator to store medications, phone line, internet access and access to a sink.

What is UAS's investment?

UAS will provide, at its own cost, all personnel, supplies and equipment needed for your allergy center to function smoothly and efficiently. UAS has also invested heavily in the training of our Certified Clinical Allergy Technicians/Specialists (CAT/CAS). They are trained in the latest techniques for allergy testing and meet or exceed Federal Standards for allergy testing. The CAT/CAS is certified through a rigorous program by the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW). UIW is an accredited university, nationally recognized for its healthcare degree programs and certifications.

How are payments made to the practice?

You maintain total control of cash flow. Insurance companies will pay you in the same manner as they do currently. You will continue to receive insurance reimbursements and collect patient co-pays for services rendered. UAS will then assist with claims to reconcile the accounts and invoice you for services provided to you and your patients.

Who manages the allergy center?

You, the provider, will determine which patients are candidates for allergy testing and immunotherapy services. You will manage all medical decisions and supervise the clinical aspects of the allergy center.

What is required of my staff?

Because UAS only provides services upon your request, you and your staff must facilitate patient identification and scheduling. You will also need to provide assistance with the collection of patient data to confirm medical necessity, as well as administrative help processing and communicating with payers regarding insurance benefits and payments.

Will training be provided?

UAS provides training for administrative and clinical staff. Training includes information about immunotherapy science and regulatory requirements. We also do extensive training with the providers and providers on site. We will go over step-by-step what is required of you and how we will integrate into your practice.

What ongoing support will be provided by UAS?

UAS will provide ongoing continuing education for UAS staff and for providers. UAS will manage and support all administrative and technical requirements of the allergy center. The local UAS Account Manager assigned to your practice will work with your staff on a daily basis to ensure a

successful partnership.

How will the allergy center be promoted?

UAS will provide you with patient education and marketing materials for your office in order to communicate to your patients. We also work closely with your practice to assist in other marketing programs such as print, online, broadcast and television advertising, direct mail campaigns, media communications and signage.

Do I have to be an allergist to perform immunotherapy?

Designing and implementing allergy immunotherapy protocols is within the scope of practice for MDs and DOs. Most mid-level practitioners may also supervise the preparation of the immunotherapy serum. This may vary based on individual state guidelines and health plan policy.

What is the typical patient profile for allergy testing and immunotherapy?

The typical immunotherapy patient suffers from seasonal environmental allergies. Further, the immunotherapy patient may have only experienced partial benefits or had unsuccessful experiences with standard allergy medications that failed to provide a solution. Finally, the patient needs to be willing and capable of complying with the requirements of an immunotherapy program.

How is the test performed?

Under provider supervision, the CAT/CAS performs skin (prick) testing for seasonal and perennial allergens (including dust mites, weeds, trees, grasses, molds, pet dander and cockroach). Skin (prick) testing creates a IgE mediated reaction on the surface of the skin that can be measured and these positive results create the basis for the discussion of "avoidance therapy" and the formulation of individualized allergen immunotherapy vials.

How is immunotherapy administered?

After the patient has tested positive for various antigens, the provider examines the test results for clinical significance. Then, if the provider and the patient choose, the CAT/CAS prepares the customized immunotherapy specific to each patient. The immunotherapy is administered subcutaneously either in the office or the patients can also safely self-administer at home, if the provider deems it appropriate through UAS guidelines.

What types of patients have contraindications?

The exclusion criteria in part consists of a history of severe allergic reactions, or uncontrolled asthma, the use of beta blockers, pregnancy, the use of immunosuppressant medications (e.g. chemotherapy etc.), uncontrolled hypertension or significant cardiopulmonary disorders (e.g. CHF, MI, cardiac arrhythmias or moderate to severe COPD), and those with extensive atopic dermatitis or psoriasis may not be good candidates for immunotherapy. An extensive allergy history will be taken on each patient before commencing allergy testing and immunotherapy.

What is required prior to testing?

An ear, nose, and throat exam is performed by the provider and the provider determines if testing is medically appropriate. If the patient is currently taking antihistamines, he/she should discontinue usage prior to testing based on the time it takes for the medication to metabolize out of the patient's system and on the provider's clinical judgment.