

<b>DATE:</b>	18 February 2025
<b>TO:</b>	All Zones
<b>FROM:</b>	Molecular Genetics Laboratory, North Sector, Genetics and Genomics, APL
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Updated to Familial Hypercholesterolemia Gene Panel Testing</b>

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### Key Message

- The familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) gene panel has been updated based on current scientific evidence. This change applies to samples analyzed in the laboratory after March 3, 2025.
- The following genes will be added to the FH gene pane: ***APOE*, *LIPA*, *ABCG5*, and *ABCG8***

### How this will impact you

- The addition of these 4 genes will slightly improve the detection rate. The *APOE4* allele is not associated with FH and will not be reported. The *APOE2* allele will only be reported when homozygous as heterozygotes for the *APOE2* allele are not at increased risk for FH.
- Retesting of patients will only be approved for patients with a high suspicion of FH (i.e. onset at a young age and strong family history). This requires prior approval from the lab. Please contact the North MGL Genetic Counsellors for prior approval.

### Action Required

- Refer to the test directory for a current list of genes on the FH gene panel: [Alberta Precision Laboratories | Lab Services](#)

**Effective**      **March 3, 2025**

### Questions/Concerns

- G&G North (Edmonton) MGL Genetic Counsellors at 780-407-1015

### Approved by

- Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics & Genomics, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL