

DATE:	26 May 2025
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Molecular Genetics and Cytogenetics Labs, Genetics and Genomics, APL
RE:	Genetic Test Ordering Standardization in Connect Care – Fetal/Cord Blood

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Key Message

- All genetic testing involving fetal blood or umbilical cord blood specimens, processed in the Molecular Genetics and Cytogenetics Laboratories (North and South), requires the use of the following standardized specimen type and source when placing orders in Connect Care:
 - **Specimen Type:** Blood
 - **Specimen Source:** Blood, Umbilical – Mixed
- This ensures alignment with provincial testing standards and facilitates uniform processing across all sites.

Background

- Certain laboratory tests within Connect Care are limited to specific specimen types, sources, and container requirements. To support standardized practices across the province, a single specimen type and source designation has been established to encompass both fetal blood and umbilical cord blood. This standardized format aligns with internal testing protocols and promotes consistency in specimen processing across all provincial genetics laboratories.

How this will impact you

- When ordering genetic tests for fetal or cord blood specimens in Connect Care, only the above-specified specimen type and source should be selected. Use of outdated or non-standard designations may result in order rejections, delays in processing, or the need for re-collection. This change aims to streamline ordering and reduce variability in specimen entry.

Action Required

- Begin using the standardized specimen type and source immediately when placing orders involving fetal or cord blood specimens.
- Review and update any local ordering workflows, job aids, or training materials to reflect this change.

Effective **Currently in effect**

Questions/Concerns

- Genetics and Genomics North – Genetic Counsellors, University of Alberta Hospital, 780-407-1015
- Genetics and Genomics South – Genetic Counsellors, Alberta Children's Hospital, 403-955-3097

Approved by

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