

DATE:	28 September 2026
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Molecular Genetics Laboratories, North & South, Genetics and Genomics, APL
RE:	Methodology Change for Specific Variant Testing (inherited cancer, cardiac, connective tissue and vascular disorders)

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Specific variant testing (sequence and copy number variants) for most inherited cancer, cardiac, connective tissue and vascular disorders will be performed using next generation sequencing (NGS) with the entire gene of interest being analyzed. If the whole gene is not sequenced by NGS, the test approach will be reported in the methodology.
- In addition to reporting the presence of the specific variant(s) of interest, any additional pathogenic or likely pathogenic variants will be reported. Variants of uncertain significance (VUSs) will NOT be reported.
- Specific variant testing for other conditions is unchanged and reporting will remain limited to the variant(s) of interest.

How this will impact you

- Patients should be informed that additional variants could be identified as part of the analysis.
- There are no changes to the ordering instruction, restrictions or indications for specific variant testing
- The turn around time for results will remain 6-8 weeks for routine test requests and 2 weeks for rush test requests.

Action Required

- Refer to the test directory for a current list of genes tested through Genetics & Genomics, APL: [APL Test Directory](#)
- Continue to use the following orders and include the specific gene and variant.
 - Inherited Cancer and Endocrine Gene Panels, Specific Variant (LAB3335)
 - Cardiac Gene Panel, Specific Variant (LAB4148)
 - Connective Tissue Disorder Panel, Specific Variant (LAB4795)
 - Inherited Vascular Disorder Panel, Specific Variant (LAB4809)
- If the proband was tested in Alberta, identify the proband on the requisition. If the proband was tested out of province, forward a copy of the report to the appropriate laboratory.

Effective **October 5, 2026**

Questions/Concerns

- G&G North (Edmonton) MGL Genetic Counsellors at 780-407-1015
- G&G South (Calgary) MGL Genetic Counsellors at 403-955-3097

Approved by

- Dr. Nick Antonishyn, Medical-Scientific Director, Genetics & Genomics, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL