

DATE:	2021 December 29
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Genetics and Genomics, South Sector
RE:	Alberta Children’s Hospital Genetics Laboratories Connect Care Launch and New Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) Process

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective January 17, 2022, Alberta Precision Laboratories’ Genetics & Genomics South program (Biochemical Genetics, Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics) located at the Alberta Children’s Hospital will be going live with Connect Care to facilitate local in-house genetic testing and GRC send-outs in advance of the wave 4 launch.
 - The Genetics & Genomics South Cancer Cytogenetics laboratory is not included in this Connect Care launch and testing will continue to be reported out through Millennium.
- Testing on samples received before the Go Live date will continue to be reported by FAX through existing workflows, and may do so for several months. Please note that these results do not go into Netcare or Sunrise Clinical Manager (current state).
- Ordering of genetic testing is available within the Connect Care system to those providers who have access or will have access with subsequent launches (multiple aliases of test names exist to facilitate this ordering process).
- The process to request out-of-province genetic testing through the GRC will change and GRC requests submitted using the previous GRC Funding Request form (18177) will no longer be accepted.

Background

- Connect Care (Epic) is an electronic medical record system that is being implemented across the province of Alberta to improve health information sharing and patient care. APL’s Genetics & Genomics South will go live on Connect Care on January 17th, 2022, which will streamline the current testing and reporting of locally performed investigations as well as the process to order GRC send-outs for all Alberta clinicians.

How this will impact you

- Requests for copies of reports on specimens received before January 17th, 2022 should continue to go to the specific laboratories as per current practice. Reports on samples received after January 17th will be generated in Connect Care and will subsequently cross into NetCare.
- For in-province Genetic Testing:
 - For health care providers who have access to Connect Care, requisition forms for Biochemical Genetics, Cytogenetics, and Molecular Genetic testing are no longer required but should still be printed out of Connect Care for outpatient collections.
 - Pedigree/ family history, pregnancy information and clinical information are still required for genetics and genomic testing. Necessary information, such as pedigrees and reports from external laboratories, should be scanned into the patient’s electronic chart if possible. If not possible, the information should be faxed or sent to the laboratory.



- For health care providers who do not have access to Connect Care, existing requisitions should continue to be used and are available on the Genetics & Genomics website (below).
- For Out of Province Genetic Testing:
 - For health care providers who have access to Connect Care, blood draws for GRC send outs can be ordered using “Genetic Resource Centre Send-Out (LAB10047)”
 - For health care providers who do not have access to Connect Care, complete a copy of the Genetic Resource Centre requisition, and provide this requisition to your patient to have their blood drawn.
 - A separate GRC Funding Request form is no longer required.

Action Required

- Please refer to the Genetics and Genomics website for information on the ordering of genetic tests, requisitions, information sheets and the Genetic Resource Centre (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page8667.aspx>).
 - The GRC Requisition form to order Out-of-Province testing will be available on the Genetics & Genomics website on January 17th, 2022
- To order Out-of-Province Genetic Testing:
 - Review the updated “How to Order Out-of-Province Genetic Testing” document (attached)
 - Contact the GRC if you would like to schedule a meeting with your clinic to discuss these changes in more detail, or if you have any questions

Effective

- January 17, 2022

Questions/Concerns

- For questions and further information regarding the Connect Care launch, health care providers can contact the Genetics and Genomics Genetic Counsellors at 403-955-3097.
- For questions and further information regarding out of province testing, please contact the Genetic Resource Centre (phone: 403-955-5400; email: grc@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

Approved by

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



Provided For Information Only

Please note effective date is 17 Jan 2022.



Step 1: Complete a Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) Order

- Submit a Connect Care order for “Genetic Resource Centre Send-Out [LAB10047]”.
OR
- If you do not have access to Connect Care, complete a GRC requisition form.
 - Your patient can have their blood drawn at any blood collection site in Alberta, and the sample will be forwarded to Molecular Genetics South for send-out.
 - All other documents that are not available in Connect Care (e.g. pedigree, index patient report, clinic notes, etc.) should be submitted to the GRC electronically by email or fax.
 - For specimen types other than blood, please complete a GRC requisition form in lieu of a Connect Care order. This requisition should be sent to the GRC electronically.



Step 2: Complete the External Laboratory Online Order or Test Requisition

- If the requested test is listed on the [GRC Established Testing Menu](#), you may complete the send-out paperwork either before or after your patient has their blood drawn.
 - Send your order ID number or external lab requisition to the GRC via email.
 - Non-AHS providers may submit this information via fax if preferred.
- If the requested test is not listed on the GRC Established Testing Menu, the GRC will be in contact with you regarding lab selection and any further instructions.



Step 3: Await Sample Shipment and Results

- The GRC will contact the ordering provider if additional information is needed to process your request.
- If no additional information is required, your patient’s sample will be shipped to the external laboratory within 1-2 weeks.
- Ordering providers will receive a notification through Connect Care or by fax when the sample has been shipped.
- Test results will be sent to the ordering provider directly from the external laboratory.