

DATE:	9 January 2023
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	APL Genetics & Genomics
RE:	Discontinuing In-House Non-Syndromic Hearing Loss Testing

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Key Message

- As of January 9, 2023, Genetics and Genomics (G&G) will no longer be offering Non-Syndromic Hearing Loss (NSHL) genetic testing in-house. If testing is indicated for your patient, arrange out-of-province testing through the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC).

Background

- Previously, the G&G Molecular Genetics North lab (MGL North) performed testing for NSHL (*GJB2*, *GJB6* and *MT-RNR1* common variants). More extensive testing is now available through referred-out testing; therefore G&G is discontinuing the in-house NSHL gene panel testing and clinicians are asked to apply for funding through the GRC for out of province testing instead.

How this will impact you

- Genetic testing for NSHL is now a referred-out test and requires funding approval through the GRC. This includes diagnostic testing, known pathogenic variant testing (even when the variant was previously identified at MGL North), and carrier screening/testing.

Action Required

- Order NSHL testing as a referred-out test via the GRC.

If the provider is on Connect Care:

To order testing at an external lab, place a Genetic Resource Center Send Out (LAB10047) order.

If the provider is not on Connect Care:

To order testing at an external lab, use the Genetic Resource Centre Requisition (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-21887.pdf>)

- Refer to the Genetic Resource Centre tab at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/page8667.aspx> for more details.

Effective **January 9, 2023**

Questions/Concerns

- Molecular Genetics Laboratory, North: 780-407-1015 (Genetic Counsellors)
Genetic Resource Centre: 403-955-5400

Approved by

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