

DATE:	2022 October 31
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Genetics and Genomics, Molecular Genetics Laboratory, North Sector
RE:	Psychiatrists added to specialists eligible to order <i>C9ORF72</i> genetic testing

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Key Message

- Effective November 1, 2022, psychiatrists will be able to order *C9ORF72* testing for patients meeting criteria. This change will streamline care for these patients.

Background

- Molecular Genetics Laboratory, North Sector, offers genetic testing for *C9ORF72* to detect repeat expansions associated with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Dementia. Testing is currently restricted to neurology and genetics. In some situations, a psychiatrist may be the most responsible practitioner for patient with dementia or psychosis.

How this will impact you

- Psychiatrists are eligible to order *C9ORF72* genetic testing for the purpose of confirming a diagnosis in patients meeting the following criteria:
 - Patients with a clinical diagnosis of behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD), with supportive imaging (MR brain or FDG-PET CT) OR
 - Patients that have a primary late onset psychotic disorder AND
 - has a first degree relative with bvFTD, psychosis or another late onset severe psychiatric disorder, ALS, or Parkinsonism
- Clinical information including the patient's diagnosis and relevant family history MUST be included on the requisition
- Incomplete requisitions will result in test cancellation and the sample being discarded
- There are no other changes to ordering criteria/eligibility to order. Genetics and Neurology remaining able to order for confirmation of diagnosis. Presymptomatic testing remains restricted to clinical genetics to ensure appropriate pretest counselling and consent.

Action Required

- Please refer to the APL test directory for test information including ordering instructions <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?zoneid=1&SearchText=c9orf&submit=Submit&upperTest=-1&lowerTest=-1>

Effective **November 01, 2022**

Questions/Concerns

- Molecular Genetics Laboratory Genetic Counsellors
 - North 780-407-1015

Approved by

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