

Date: October 23, 2014
To: Pediatric Neurologists, Clinical Geneticists, Metabolic Physicians
From: Genetic Resource Centre, Genetic Laboratory Services, AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Requests for out of province funding for multi-gene epilepsy panels

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

The Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) is committed to coordinating evidence-based access to out of province genetic testing. Our multi-disciplinary team facilitates requests for funding of genetic testing by providing education, application support, clinical review and coordinating approvals that balance patient care and financial stewardship.

Due to resource constraints, the GRC does not currently have a mechanism to assess the clinical utility of multi-gene epilepsy panels.

Any application received for the consideration of out of province funding for a multi-gene epilepsy panel will therefore be withdrawn.

The GRC is considering all options and is working towards a solution to having applications for multi-gene epilepsy panels reviewed in the future. At this time, the GRC does not have an estimate as to when applications for these panels will be accepted for review.

For more information regarding GRC, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca/3310.asp

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- GRC@albertahealthservices.ca or 403-955-5400

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Martin Somerville, Medical / Scientific Director, Genetic Laboratory Services
Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services