Date: April 20, 2020
To: Central Zone, Calgary Zone, and South Zone Physicians, Nurses, Genetic Counsellors
From: Genetics and Genomics
Re: Out-of-Province Biochemical Genetic Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:
• Effective April 1, 2020, Genetics and Genomics (G&G) South Sector has eliminated the requirement for Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) funding pre-approval for all out-of-province biochemical genetic tests requests on patients within the South, Central, and Calgary Zones.
• Approval authority will transition to the biochemical geneticists in G&G South Biochemical Genetics laboratory, in alignment with the current practice in G&G North Sector.

Why this is important:
• A GRC funding request is no longer required when requesting out-of-province biochemical genetic testing.
• Requests for out-of-province biochemical genetic testing can instead be submitted directly to the G&G South Biochemical Genetics Laboratory, following the steps outlined below.

Action Required:
• To determine whether specific biochemical genetic testing represents an out-of-province send out, please refer to the Alberta Precision Laboratories Test Directory. If the test of interest is not listed in the directory, or if it is listed as “Biochemical Genetics Referred-Out Testing”, an out-of-province send out will be required.
• When ordering a biochemical genetic test that is not performed in province, please proceed as follows:
  o If you have NOT requested this test in the past, or if you have any questions about laboratory options or sample requirements, please contact the G&G South Biochemical Genetics Laboratory by phone at 403-955-7380, and ask to speak to the on-service biochemical geneticist.
  o If you have previously requested this test (whether the same patient or a different patient), and the out-of-province laboratory and sample requirements are known, please complete a Biochemical Genetics Laboratory requisition (https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-18521.pdf) by indicating the reason for referral and filling in Section 4 (“Referral Tests”) with relevant test, lab, and specimen information; this requisition can be provided to the patient to have their sample collected. A GRC funding request will NOT be required.
• Please note that the above process only applies to requests for out-of-province biochemical genetic testing. Requests for out-of-province molecular genetic testing (ex. NGS panels, gene sequencing) and cytogenetic testing still require funding pre-approval through the GRC.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:
• Calgary Biochemical Genetics Laboratory: 403-955-7380

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics & Genomics, Alberta Precision Laboratories
Dr. Carolyn O’Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), Alberta Precision Laboratories

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