



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:
 - 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.
 - 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