

DATE:	17 February 2026
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	APL Genetics & Genomics
RE:	Discontinuing Specific In-House Testing for Alpha Thalassemia X-linked Intellectual Disability Syndrome, Cat-eye Syndrome, Choroideremia, Hereditary Glaucoma, Hidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia 2, and Williams Syndrome

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- As of February 17, 2026, Genetics and Genomics (G&G) will no longer be offering specific in-house genetic testing for:
 - Alpha Thalassemia X-linked Intellectual Disability Syndrome (ATRX)
 - Cat-eye Syndrome (CES, 22q11.2, Partial Tetrasomy 22)
 - Choroideremia (CHM)
 - Hereditary Glaucoma (MYOC, CYP1B1, POAG, JOAG)
 - Hidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia 2 (HED2, GJB6, Clouston Syndrome)
 - Williams Syndrome (Williams-Beuren Syndrome, 7q11.2 Deletion, WMS)
- If testing for Alpha Thalassemia X-linked Intellectual Disability Syndrome, Choroideremia, Hereditary Glaucoma or Hidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia 2 is indicated for your patient, arrange out-of-province testing through the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC).
- If testing for Cat-eye Syndrome or Williams Syndrome is indicated for your patient, consider ordering in-house chromosomal microarray (CMA) testing.

Background

- Previously, the G&G Molecular Genetics North Laboratory (MGL North) performed specific testing for the above conditions. Due to the low volume of tests ordered and availability of an alternative testing method, G&G is discontinuing specific in-house testing for these conditions. Clinicians are asked to apply for funding through the GRC for out-of-province testing or to order CMA testing instead.

How this will impact you

- Genetic testing for the above conditions is now achieved via out-of-province testing and requires funding approval through the GRC or by in-house CMA testing. 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 testing as a referred-out test via the GRC, if indicated. Refer to the Genetic Resource Centre section on the [G&G website](#) for more details.
 - If the provider is on Connect Care:
 - Place a Genetic Resource Center Send Out (LAB10047) order.



- If the provider is not on Connect Care:
 - Complete the [Genetic Resource Centre Requisition](#).
- Order CMA if testing for Cat-eye Syndrome or Williams Syndrome is indicated.
 - If the provider is on Connect Care:
 - Place a Chromosomal Microarray (CMA) (LAB8882, LAB8885) order.
 - If the provider is not on Connect Care:
 - Complete the [Genetics and Genomics Cytogenetic Analysis, Constitutional Requisition](#).

Effective February 17, 2026

Questions/Concerns

- G&G North (Edmonton) MGL Genetic Counsellors at 780-407-1015
- Genetic Resource Centre at 403-955-5400

Approved by

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