

DATE:	16 March 2026
TO:	All Zones, Edmonton Medical Genetics Clinic, Dr. R. Brian Lowry Genetics Clinic, M.A.G.I.C Clinic; Dr. Harris Yee, Dr. Carey Johnson, and Division of Medical Genetics, Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon
FROM:	Molecular Genetics North, Genetics and Genomics, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discarding Residual DNA Samples Received from September 2017 to December 2022

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Key Message

- The Molecular Genetics Laboratory (MGL), North Sector, will be discarding residual DNA from samples received between September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022 in compliance with our retention guidelines.

Background

- Past practice by the MGL was to store residual samples indefinitely when possible. Due to space constraints, the MGL is unable to store residual DNA and will be discarding residual DNA from samples received between September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022 in line with retention guidelines for APL. Residual DNA from samples received on January 1, 2023 or later have been discarded in accordance with sample retention guidelines as summarized in the April 15, 2024 [Genetics & Genomics Specimen Storage Guidelines lab bulletin](#).
- DNA from samples meeting any of the following exceptions will be retained for 25 years from the original date of collection as defined in our retention guidelines, provided there is sufficient DNA:
 - DNA banking was ordered
 - Sample source is fetal tissue, umbilical cord or placenta
 - Sample source is amniotic fluid or chorionic villus sample (excluding samples where the only testing performed was Rapid Aneuploidy Detection)
 - Sample was collected for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, fronto-temporal dementia, mitochondrial disorder or inherited cancer testing. Samples collected for familial variant testing will not be retained.
 - Sample was submitted by the medical examiner's office

How this will impact you

- DNA from samples received from September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022 that do not fall within one of the above exceptions will not be available for additional testing. If additional testing is indicated, please send the patient for sample collection.
- Samples meeting above exception criteria can have new testing requested using the appropriate paper Genetics specialty requisition. Note: Orders CANNOT be placed in Connect Care for these samples.
[Molecular Genetics Laboratory General Requisition \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)
[Molecular Genetics Laboratory Cancer and Endocrine NGS Requisition \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)
[Molecular Genetics Laboratory Cardiac Connective Tissue and Vascular NGS Requisition form \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)



- The paper requisition can be faxed to the Edmonton MGL (fax:780-407-1761).
- If insufficient DNA is available to complete the requested testing, the order will be cancelled with a comment that “Insufficient DNA is available to complete requested testing”.

Effective April 16th, 2026

Questions/Concerns

- G&G North (Edmonton) MGL Genetic Counsellors at 780-407-1015

Approved by

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