

DATE:	16 March 2026
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Molecular Genetics Laboratory, North Sector, Genetics and Genomics, APL
RE:	Expansion of Cardiac Genetic Testing Ordering Privileges for Adult Inpatients

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Historically, access to most cardiac genetic testing has been restricted to Medical Genetics specialists.
- Effective March 16, 2026, cardiac genetic testing can be ordered by Cardiologists for **adult inpatients** who meet the following criteria:
 - Clinical diagnosis of non-ischemic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) (ejection fraction <50% and dilated ventricle in the absence of another cause) OR
 - Clinical diagnosis of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) (left ventricular hypertrophy ≥ 15 mm in the absence of another cause of hypertrophy) OR
 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) at a young age or with a suspicious family history.
- This change applies only to the above diagnoses and is part of a 1-year pilot initiative. Please request a genetic or metabolic consultation for patients with a suspected genetic or metabolic diagnosis that do not meet these criteria.
- Testing may be ordered as RUSH only if results will impact immediate medical management (e.g., ICD placement).
- Please refer patients to Medical Genetics once results are available for further discussion of the findings and family implications.
- Patients may also be referred to Medical Genetics after discharge for these indications, if preferred by the patient or their cardiologist. In these situations, DNA short term storage (2 years) may be appropriate.**

How this will impact you

- Cardiologists can now directly order genetic testing for adult inpatients who meet the specified criteria (DCM, HCM, or SCA), without requiring prior involvement from Medical Genetics.
- This change allows more timely integration of genetic information into clinical care while maintaining the ability to refer patients to Medical Genetics for interpretation and discussion of impact for family members.
- Ordering privileges apply only to the diagnoses listed above. Please refer to the [Test Directory](#) for ordering privileges for other genetic testing.

Action Required

- Please select the most appropriate gene panel based on the patient's diagnosis:
 - For DCM, order the Dilated Cardiomyopathy Panel (LAB4771).



- For HCM, order the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Panel (LAB4770).
- For SCA, order the Comprehensive Cardiac Panel (LAB4774). This panel includes arrhythmia and cardiomyopathy genes.
- **In your EPIC order, indicate the clinical diagnosis AND that patient is an inpatient.**
- Attending physicians are the authorizing providers for all inpatient orders. Therefore, **you may need to ensure that you are copied on the order or you will not receive a copy of the result.**
- For urgent cases, clearly indicate the order priority as RUSH and provide justification related to immediate management decisions.

Effective March 16, 2026

Questions/Concerns

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

Approved by

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