

DATE:	27 April 2026
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Molecular Genetics Laboratory North & South, Genetics & Genomics, APL
RE:	Repatriation of Fetal and Perinatal Loss Exome Analysis

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Key Message

- As of May 1, 2026, routine exome analysis on fetal and perinatal loss specimens will be performed by Genetics & Genomics, APL. Urgent exome analysis requests will continue to be processed through the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC).

Background

- Per current guidelines, exome analysis may be indicated for fetal and perinatal losses where a genetic etiology is the most likely explanation for the phenotype and the fetus presented with multiple congenital anomalies or a single complex anomaly that is considered highly genetically heterogenous. For more information, see the [Exome Analysis Guideline](#).
- Previously, exome analysis for all fetal and perinatal loss specimens was referred out to external laboratories via the GRC. Routine, postnatal exome analysis has been offered through APL Genetics & Genomics since June 2025. Through collaboration with the North & South prenatal genetics clinicians, a variant analysis and reporting pathway has been established specifically for fetal and perinatal loss cases.

How this will impact you

- As of May 1st, 2026, ordering exome analysis for fetal and perinatal loss specimens will require completion of the [Whole Exome Sequencing \(WES\) Requisition](#). As testing will be performed on banked DNA samples, the requisition should be emailed to the lab where the DNA is stored to initiate exome analysis. If you have access to Phenotips, enter the HPO terms and additional relevant clinical information. If you do not have access to Phenotips, provide HPO terms on the requisition.
- Requests for routine exome analysis for fetal and perinatal losses will be accepted in accordance with current eligibility guidelines. Urgent exome analysis requests should be ordered through the GRC.
- Trio analysis is **recommended**. Parents will be required to provide blood samples for testing.

Action Required

- Refer to the [Test Directory](#) for the test description, acceptable specimen types, and restrictions.
- Refer to the [Exome Analysis Guideline](#) for eligibility criteria and testing scenarios to guide testing approach for complex cases.

Effective **May 1, 2026**

Questions/Concerns

- G&G North MGL Genetic Counsellors at 780-407-1015
- G&G South MGL Genetic Counsellors at 403-955-3097

Approved by

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