

Genetic Resource Centre – Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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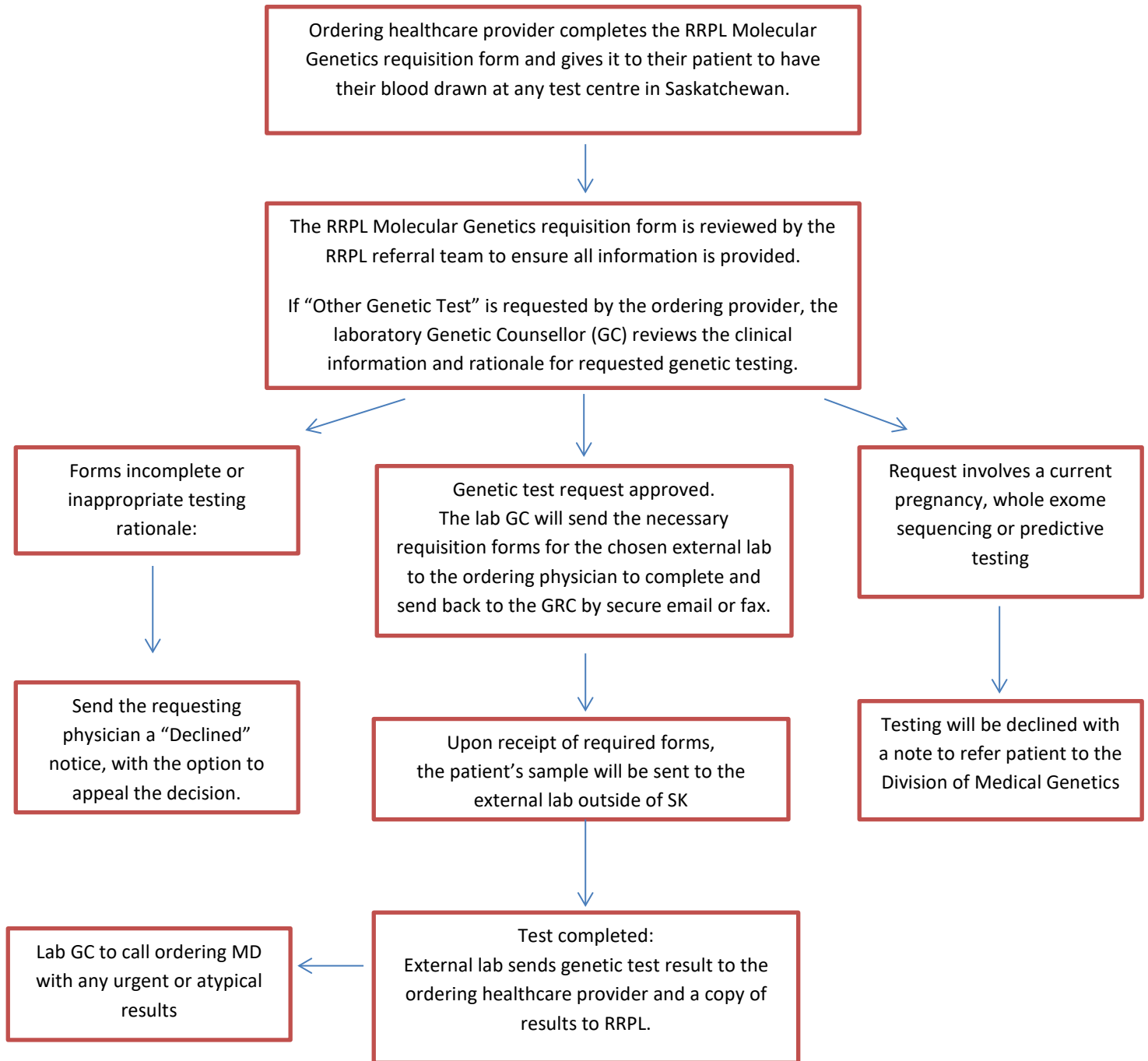
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1. Is there a flowchart that outlines the process of the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC)?



2. When should I complete the greyed portion of the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory's Molecular Genetics requisition form?

It is appropriate to complete the greyed portion on page 2 of the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL)'s Molecular Genetics Requisition form when:

- i) The molecular diagnostic genetic test is not listed on page 1 of the RRPL Molecular Requisition form;
AND
- ii) The molecular confirmation of the diagnosis is required for the management of your patient or their family;
AND
- iii) All testing options available within the province of Saskatchewan have been exhausted.

3. Why do I have to apply through the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory's Genetic Resource Centre for genetic testing?

The Saskatchewan Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) has been created to manage genetic test orders for labs outside of Saskatchewan and provide support and education to health care providers who are ordering these tests to care for their patients. One of the main goals of the GRC is to improve patient outcomes by ensuring that the most appropriate genetic test is ordered for each patient's unique situation. Genetic technology is fast-changing and new and improved tests are always becoming available. The GRC will be able to provide access to new tests that may offer higher value and/or improved clinical sensitivity, which will improve the likelihood of finding a molecular diagnosis in your patient.

By centralizing the genetic testing send-out process, the GRC will improve the stewardship of healthcare dollars used for send-out genetic tests. The GRC will also provide equitable access of genetic testing to all patients in Saskatchewan, regardless of their location or provider.

4. How do I apply for approval for a genetic test for my patient?

Genetic test approval can be done after the patient has undergone their blood draw. The RRPL molecular genetics requisition form is available at <https://rrpl-testviewer.ehealthsask.ca/>

For the tests not listed on the "RRPL Molecular Genetics Requisition" form, ensure you complete the greyed section on page 2 of the requisition form and send any relevant clinic notes, imaging or pathology reports to support your request. Please note that requests with incomplete sections will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant. Be as detailed as possible in your request. The more information you are able to provide, the easier it is for the reviewers to understand the clinical situation, rationale for the request and the potential impact of the results.

5. What is considered an urgent request?

The Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) will review applications on an urgent basis if a molecular diagnosis is required for immediate treatment and / or management decisions. If an explanation regarding the test's urgency is not provided, it will be assumed that the testing is not urgent.

If there is an ongoing pregnancy for which the genetic test results may impact, the request will be declined and the patient must be referred to the Division of Medical Genetics at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon for prenatal genetic counselling. Referrals to Medical Genetics can be faxed to 306-655-1736.

6. What happens when I submit my test request to the Genetic Resource Centre?

When a test request form is received, it is reviewed to ensure that all required information is provided and the test is appropriate for the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC)'s consideration. The requested test is researched for multiple variables including availability of the testing, cost and detection rate of the test. The application may also be reviewed with healthcare providers with the Division of Medical Genetics to assess the clinical utility and validity of requests. The final decision is made based on both clinical opinion and financial stewardship. A notification is then sent back to the applicant with the GRC's decision, along with any necessary requisition and consent forms to be completed, in the case where testing was approved.

7. I have submitted an application to the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC). When will I know if the test has been funded?

The GRC makes every attempt to respond to non-urgent requests within 1-2 weeks and to urgent requests within 2-3 days from the time a **completed** test request form is received. Review times may be longer than expected for a number of reasons including more information requested, complex test request, volume of test requests, etc.

8. My request for out of province genetic testing has been approved. Now what?

Once the requisition form has been reviewed and the medical rationale for testing was determined to be appropriate, you or a member of your team will receive a notification by fax or through a secure Saskatchewan Health Authority email address, along with the paperwork required by the external laboratory (requisition +/- clinical information form). Complete the external laboratory's requisition and paperwork and send by secure email to GRC@saskhealthauthority.ca or faxed to (306)791-4630. Once the GRC receives all necessary and completed paperwork, the sample will be sent to the external laboratory.

9. What if DNA has already been banked on the patient?

If DNA has already been banked on your patient, you can complete the RRPL Molecular Genetics Requisition and send it, along with any supporting documentation, directly to the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) by secure email to GRC@saskhealthauthority.ca or fax to (306)791-4630.

10. Why do I have to complete an RRPL Molecular Genetics Requisition AND a requisition for the external lab?

The “RRPL Molecular Genetics Requisition” form ensures your patient can have blood drawn at any blood draw centre in Saskatchewan and that the sample will be sent to the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory for proper processing. The requisition for the external laboratory accompanies your patient’s sample to the testing lab and ensures they perform the appropriate test and issue the result to the ordering healthcare provider. The Genetic Resource Centre does not have the knowledge of the patient’s clinical history required to complete the external laboratory requisition. The ordering physician is therefore responsible for completing all required paperwork.

11. When will I receive the results of the genetic tests that are sent out of province?

In general, the Genetic Resource Centre (GRC) selects laboratories that provide a turnaround time of no greater than 3 months wherever possible. However, this is dependent on the test requested and the laboratory performing the testing. If you have questions about the turn-around time for a particular patient, contact the referral laboratory directly. You will receive the results directly from the referral laboratory; however, a copy will also be sent to the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory and uploaded to eHealth after the date of test completion.

12. Is the genetic test result reviewed before I receive it?

The majority of molecular diagnostic results received from external labs are reviewed by a laboratory genetic counsellor within one week of test completion; however, it is your responsibility to communicate the results to the patient. If there are secondary or unexpected test results, the laboratory genetic counsellor may reach out to the ordering provider to discuss the results, but if there is any suggested follow-up indicated in the report, it is the responsibility of the ordering physician to arrange that and/or refer to the Division of Medical Genetics for appropriate genetic counselling.

13. My request for a genetic test was denied. Now what?

If your test request did not meet the requirements for approval, you may choose to appeal the decision or resubmit the request (in the cases where there is additional information available not included in the original request). To appeal or re-submit, please email a letter outlining your rationale for appeal or the additional information to GRC@saskhealthauthority.ca.

14. I need to apply for multiple tests for the same patient. How do I do this?

Whenever possible, genetic testing should be ordered in a tiered fashion, with the test with the highest likelihood of determining the molecular diagnosis being ordered first. There are certain circumstances where ordering multiple tests at the same time does not increase the cost of the test and it might be deemed appropriate to order all of the tests at once. On the greyed portion of the RRPL Molecular Genetics requisition form, indicate all of the testing that you are interested in ordering to help you in caring for the patient and the GRC will determine whether ordering testing in a tiered fashion or all-at-once makes the most sense for that patient's care.

15. Are genetic test results going to be scanned into eHealth?

To ensure that all medical professionals involved in the care of the patient have access to results that could impact their care, the results of the majority of genetic test results will be scanned into eHealth.

Certain tests, such as pre-symptomatic/predictive tests for which a patient is not yet showing symptoms and there are no screening protocols in place for the tested condition will not have their results scanned into eHealth by the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory. As predictive testing is only to be ordered by healthcare providers in the Division of Medical Genetics, questions regarding predictive test results can be forwarded to them at 306-655-1692.