



Provincial Health Services Authority

# MEMO

November 24, 2023

## Re: Changes to Mainstreamed Hereditary Cancer Testing Result Reporting

This memo is to tell you about upcoming changes to how results of mainstreamed genetic testing will be shared with ordering clinicians and patients from the Cancer Genetics and Genomics Laboratory (CGL) and the Hereditary Cancer Program (HCP).

### What will stay the same:

- Mainstreamed genetic test results will continue to be uploaded to Cerner and CAIS by CGL
- All reports will continue to be distributed by mail by CGL
- We will continue to notify ordering physicians by email of all **clinically relevant findings** from mainstreamed genetic testing, including pathogenic/likely pathogenic variants or VUS with potential clinical significance.

### What is changing:

Currently, ordering physicians are notified of **all** mainstreamed genetic test results by email.

### As of **December 1, 2023**:

- We will **no longer email** ordering physicians to notify them when a mainstreamed genetic test result is **uninformative**. This includes:
  - **Negative** test results (ie. no pathogenic/likely pathogenic variant identified)
  - Variants of uncertain significance (**VUS**) that are unlikely to be clinically significant
  - NOTE: these changes do not apply to tests ordered to determine Olaparib eligibility. Ordering physicians will continue to be notified of **all results** in this setting.
- **Reflex referrals** to the BC Cancer Hereditary Cancer Program will **no longer be made** for patients found to have a **VUS** that is **unlikely to be clinically significant**

**These changes will support timely notification of clinically relevant findings and reduce the wait time for patients reflexively referred to the BC Cancer Hereditary Cancer Program.**

Ordering physicians should **continue to disclose** all mainstreamed genetic test results and **provide patients with the appropriate information sheet**, now found here:

<http://cancergeneticslab.ca/hereditary/mainstreamed-testing/>

Ordering physicians may still refer any patient who has had mainstreamed genetic testing to the BC Cancer Hereditary Cancer Program for genetic counselling if:

- The patient appears to meet clinical criteria for a hereditary cancer syndrome.



Provincial Health Services Authority

- The patient requires additional support in understanding/coping with their result.
- The patient's family history of cancer changes or they become aware of additional significant cancer family history suggestive of a hereditary cancer syndrome.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, you can contact the Laboratory Genetic Counsellor/Genetic Counselling Assistant at [genetic.counsellor@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:genetic.counsellor@bccancer.bc.ca).

Stephen Yip, M.D., Ph.D., FRCPC  
Medical Director – Cancer Genetics & Genomics Laboratory

Kasmintan Schrader MBBS, FRCPC, PhD, DABMGG  
Co-Medical Director, Hereditary Cancer Program

Sophie Sun, MD, MSc, FRCPC  
Co-Medical Director, Hereditary Cancer Program