LABORATORY GENETICS UPDATE ON SERVICE PROVISION
20th March 2020

As of Friday 20th March, and for the foreseeable future, Laboratory Genetics will no longer have the capacity to carry out testing for routine germline referrals (to include diagnostic samples and familial testing of known genetic abnormalities). This includes, but is not limited to, referrals for:

- Developmental delay (Microarray and Fragile X syndrome)
- Karyotype analysis
- Hereditary cancer
- Hereditary haemochromatosis
- Epilepsy and Rett syndrome
- Recurrent miscarriage/product of conception
- Infertility
- Disorders of sexual development
- Imprinting disorders

Send away of non-urgent tests to referral labs will also be suspended.

Germline referrals for the following analyses are deemed as priority analyses and we will endeavour to process and test, however there may be some impact on reporting turnaround times:

- Prenatal diagnosis (rapid testing by QF-PCR followed by karyotype or microarray as appropriate) and follow up parental testing if indicated.
- Prenatal testing for known familial genetic abnormalities. **IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THESE ARE DISCUSSED WITH THE LABORATORY BEFOREHAND SINCE WE MAY NEED TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT TO ANOTHER LABORATORY WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE TESTING CAPACITY.**
- Neonatal samples from which the patient is suspected to have a genetic condition after birth (including new born screening for cystic fibrosis and Sickle cell disease)

If there are patients that you consider may need urgent genetic testing please call 0141 354 9284 (cytogenetics) or 0141 354 9310 (molecular) or email Genetic.Laboratories@ggc.scot.nhs.uk and we will consider your request.

Where routine samples are received that do not fall into the above categories and if staffing allows, DNA will be extracted and stored (EDTA bloods for molecular investigations) as will blood cell cultures (lithium heparin blood for cytogenetic analysis). However, where this is not possible, samples will be discarded and a further specimen will be required following the resumption of normal service delivery.

We will endeavour to analyse and report cases that are currently being processed but this cannot be guaranteed.