

## Sample Shipment Policy

### Division of Laboratory Genetics, Molecular Genetics Laboratory

The Molecular Genetics Laboratory (MGL) at BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals will assist in the coordination and shipment of samples in very specific circumstances only.

Requests for approval of exception must be made by the requesting Physician to the Molecular Geneticist on-service, on a case-by-case basis.

1. MGL will only ship samples for **molecular genetic** testing. This does not include comparative microarray analysis (CMA) / comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) testing, enzyme/substrate analysis or any other non-molecular genetic testing.
2. MGL will not transfer/ship DNA samples to other labs within the province.
3. MGL will ship samples out-of-province/country for **clinical** testing only – not exploratory research. Most often, these requests are MSP-funded out-of-province/country tests.
4. MGL will ship samples out-of-province for clinical testing in a research laboratory, i.e. specific testing for which a report will be returned, when the clinical testing changes the management of the patient or family.
  - a. If the testing is exploratory, for example next generation sequencing of a cohort of patients with similar phenotypes with the goal of identifying new causes of the phenotype, then the laboratory will not be involved.
5. MGL will not ship samples in advance of receiving MSP funding approval. Funding approval must be provided with the request for shipment form.
6. MGL will not ship samples where testing is being paid for by the patient (i.e. self-pay).
7. MGL will not ship samples for out-of-province/country testing for patients residing outside British Columbia or the Yukon Territory, nor will samples from patients from other provinces originally sent to MGL for diagnostic testing be sent to another lab. Blood should be drawn in the patient's home province and shipped directly from the home province to the outside lab.
8. MGL will not ship samples to labs outside of Canada in advance of receiving signed consent from the patient and/or their guardian to send identified patient information outside the country (i.e., signed Consent for Release of Information).