BC Children's Hospital & BC Women's Hospital
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE
Division of Laboratory Genetics & Genomics

Date: October 3, 2016

To: Drs L. Clarke, M. Chilvers, K. Lim, G. Hoag, P. Wilcox, J. Dansereau, J. Burrows, J. Hitkari, B. Taylor, K. Seethram, S. Kashyap, A. Cheung, K. Wise, M. Somerville, S. Hume, D. McFadden, K. Mooder and D. Koehn, U. Smith Durland, R. Butler, K. Ekroos

From: Dr Tanya Nelson, Division Head

RE: **Improvements to BC's Cystic Fibrosis Genetic Testing**

The BCCH Division of Laboratory Genetics & Genomics is pleased to announce the launch of a new genetic test for cystic fibrosis (CF) that improves patient care.

The new CF genetic test increases the number of CF-causing variants assessed from 37 to 130. This boosts the diagnostic rate by 10 per cent and decreases the incidence of false negatives.

Background:
The BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital Molecular Genetics Laboratory (MGL) performs 2000 CF genetic tests per year, providing the province's diagnostic and screening testing for CF, including CF screening offered through the Provincial Newborn Screening program.

On March 31, 2016, a global recall was issued for the CF genetic testing kit used by MGL. This recall had the potential to affect 82 BC individuals. *Clinical testing was repeated on all 82 individuals with 100% concordance.*

With the support of the BC Children's Hospital Foundation and the PHSA senior leadership, this week the Division rolls out a new genetic test for CF using next generation sequencing technology. The new testing solution will improve diagnostic algorithms and patient outcomes, thus improving the health of BC's patients.

The provision of cystic fibrosis testing that is not MSP funded remains suspended at this time. **We will alert you when this situation changes.**

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