

Dear Colleague,

As you are no doubt aware all NHS services are under pressure to manage costs and deliver the maximum benefit for our patients for every pound that we spend. The Genomic Laboratories are not exempt from these pressures and in the coming months we face a very significant financial challenge. I am writing to you today to ask for your help managing this situation.

The National Genomic Test Directory (NGTD) is reviewed and updated regularly by a national panel of experts which includes clinicians and scientists. The last update was published on the 6th of May 2025 and has been made available online ([NHS England » National genomic test directory](#)). These updates are to ensure that the tests we provide have the best possible clinical utility. Eligibility criteria for genomic tests change, so even if you repeatedly request the same tests, it is important that you check the National Genomic Test Directory regularly for updates. Tests that do not appear in the NGTD are not commissioned by NHSE and will not be delivered by the GLH laboratories.

NHSE wishes to ensure that tests are being performed because they have clinical utility and not simply because they appear in the NGTD. We have been given very strong guidance in this regard.

“Demand for genomic testing has grown since the establishment of the NHS GMS. At present this increase can only be met through improved efficiencies in the end-to-end testing pathway. This includes clinically driven assessment of the utility and benefit that a genomic test result may provide.” NHSE, June 2025

Starting immediately, we will no longer be able to accept referrals for genetic tests that don't explicitly meet the eligibility criteria which are set out in the National Genomic Test Directory.

I would encourage you, when making a request, to be as explicit as possible that the request is compliant with the NGTD eligibility criteria and indicate on the request what the expected clinical utility of the result may be. The laboratory will not proceed with testing where this information is not given. We will be updating our referrals forms to make this easier to demonstrate.

The Central and South Genomics website features a host of information available for healthcare professionals, including information on the National Genomic Test Directory, genomic testing pathways, referral forms, and contact information for your local laboratory. [Please click here to view this](#); you can also find links to our social media, our event calendar and newsletter by signing up on the site.

We will continue to support you and work with you to ensure that your patients receive the genomic testing that they are entitled to.

Ed Blair
Medical Director of C&S GLH



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