Northern Ireland Regional Molecular Diagnostics Service (Germline)

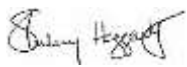## Eligibility Criteria for Patient Testing

15th July 2025

Dear Service User,

The Northern Ireland Regional Molecular Diagnostics Service (Germline) are under pressure to manage costs whilst continuing to deliver maximum benefit for our patients. There are significant financial constraints with limited funding available in a time where the demand and utility of genomic testing is constantly increasing.

The National Genomic Test Directory (NGTD) details the genomic tests available to patients in Northern Ireland. This Test Directory is reviewed and updated regularly by a national panel of experts which includes clinicians and scientists and it outlines the eligibility criteria for genomic testing for each of the clinical indications. Patients *must* meet the specified eligibility criteria prior to a genomic test being performed. In order to meet increasing demands for genomic testing, referrals should undergo a clinically driven assessment of the utility and benefit of a genomic test result prior to requesting a test.

All clinical information detailing how the patient meets the testing eligibility criteria must be provided on the referral request. It is not appropriate to request testing for patients/families where the clinical utility of the test cannot be demonstrated.

Please specify all clinical details that demonstrate the patient meets NGTD eligibility criteria and indicate on the request what the expected clinical utility of the result may be. Unless clearly detailed on the referral request the laboratory will not proceed with testing.

Shirley Heggarty
Consultant Clinical Scientist
Head of Regional Molecular Diagnostics Service (Germline)

Laboratory enquiries: (028) 950 48281 or 47844
email: GeneticsLabs@belfasttrust.hscni.net
User manual: https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/service/laboratory-services/