

To: Medical Staff, House Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

From: Soma Das, PhD, FACMG, Clinical Molecular Genetics Laboratory Director
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Date: 6/17/2026

Subject: Updated Repeat Expansion Methodology for Specific Genetic Panels

Effective Date: 6/22/2026

Laboratory Section: Molecular Diagnostics

Description/Summary:

Effective June 22, 2026, the UCM Molecular Genetics Laboratory is transitioning from a PCR/repeat-primed PCR-based testing methodology to long-read sequencing technology for the following repeat expansion test orders:

Ataxia Repeat Expansion Panel [LABMDATXRPT]
Single Gene Repeat Expansion Analysis - FXN [LABMDFXN]
Single Gene Repeat Expansion Analysis - RFC1 [LABMDRFC1]
Single Gene Repeat Expansion Analysis - FGF14 [LABMDFGF14]
Single Gene Repeat Expansion Analysis - ATXN10 [LABMDATXN10]
Single Gene Repeat Expansion Analysis - NOP56 [LABMDSCA36]

Long-read sequencing provides more accurate repeat sizing and enables improved characterization of complex repeat expansions, enhancing the quality and detail of test results.

- Because this methodology requires high-quality, high-molecular-weight DNA, **buccal swab specimens will no longer be accepted** for these test orders.
- **Blood and saliva specimens remain acceptable** and are well suited for long-read sequencing analysis. Saliva collection kits are available from the laboratory upon request.

There are no changes to the Epic orders, CPT codes or test turnaround times.

Questions: If there are any questions regarding the change, test requirements or ordering, please contact:

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