

Genetic counsellors' responsibilities across Canada:

Compiled by G. Sillon, Eastern Representative, December 2015, and updated in April 2016.

Province / Territory	Resource person	e-mail	Can a GC order a genetic test without writing an MD's name?	Can a GC refer a patient to a physician without an MD's signature?	Can a GC communicate results to a patient without the presence of an MD?	Can a GC sign a consultation report without an MD's signature?	Are there acts that are formally delegated to GCs?	
British Columbia	Catriona Hippman	catriona.hippman@ubc.ca	Most likely, there is no legislation preventing genetic counsellors from doing any of these things in BC and the Yukon. Both BC and the Yukon operate under Umbrella Health Legislation/Controlled Acts. See below for information about specific centers.					
		GC in Biochemical clinical position	No	No	Yes	No	No	
		GC in Private ART setting	No	No	Yes	Yes	No (closest is job descriptions)	
		GC in Victoria clinic	No	No	Yes. If results are positive, MD usually involved in an in-person results appointment after we have disclosed the results over the phone.	No. We have a few very short template-type letters approved by the MDs that don't need their signature (eg: sending ROIs or requisitions, short notes back the referring Dr. that we spoke to the patient over the phone to arrange testing pre-appointment), but they are very limited.	No. We started working on this years ago, but it was never completed. We have an informal agreement on some of the things GCs can do without MDs, but it's not formally documented.	
		GC in Prenatal genetic screening lab.	N/A	N/A	In the prenatal biochem lab, GCs rarely speak with	GCs sign out serum screen results and amniotic fluid AFP screen results	I am not aware of specific documents that exist regarding	

					patient's directly. If a patient contacts the lab, we are able to review results with the patient without the presence of an MD. However, the patient has always already been informed of her result prior to calling us.	without an MD co-signing.	delegation of GC responsibility in the prenatal biochem lab.
		GC in Psychiatric genetic counselling clinic - BC	N/A	Yes. Locally anyways.	N/A - no results to communicate.	Yes. Consult letters are co-signed by an MD to promote collegial relations, but this is not necessary (covered by hospital liability insurance).	No
Alberta	Sajid Merchant	sajidm@ualberta.ca	No	No	Yes	Legally, yes but not done in practice.	No
Saskatchewan	Janet Lucas	Janet.Lucas@saskatoonhealthregion.ca	No	Not technically. Request often signed by the GC on the MD's behalf.	Yes	Yes	No
Manitoba	Shannon Chin and Charity Fan	schin@hsc.mb.ca and cfan@exchange.hsc.mb.ca	No	Yes, but not clear whether it should be done.	Yes	No	No
Ontario			Practices vary depending on the institution.				
Quebec	Guillaume Sillon	guillaume.sillon@muhc.mcgill.ca	Generally no. Some centers have « Interprofessional	The referrals can be signed by the GC on the MD's behalf.	Yes	Yes, in some centers.	Generally no. Some centers have « Interprofessional

			protocols » that allow GCs to order certain tests (aCGH for specific cases, genetic testing of connexins for specific types of deafness...)				protocols » that allow GCs to perform certain functions
Nova-Scotia	Amy Crowley	Amy.Crowley@iwbk.nshealth.ca	Yes	Sometimes (depending on the reimbursement arrangement of the physician the patient is referred to).	Yes	Yes	Yes (documents available on request)
New-Brunswick (patients seen by NS GCs by telehealth)	Amy Crowley	Amy.Crowley@iwbk.nshealth.ca	No	N/A (referring MD is asked to send out referral)	Yes	Yes	NS documents used.
PEI (patients seen by NS GCs by telehealth)	Amy Crowley	Amy.Crowley@iwbk.nshealth.ca	N/A. All patients seen in PEI must be seen by an MD that is licensed in PEI. Practice has to be adapted when patients are seen by telehealth.				
Newfoundland-Labrador	Sara Fernandez	sara.fernandez@easternhealth.ca	No	Signed by the GC on the MD's behalf.	Yes	In general no, except for some specific template consultation reports.	No
Yukon	Shannon Ryan	Shannon.Ryan@gov.yk.ca	No	Yes	No tests ordered.	Yes (GC has specific liability insurance)	No
Northwest territories / Nunavut	Shannon Ryan	Shannon.Ryan@gov.yk.ca	There is no GC in Nunavut or in the Northwest territories.				