



MEMORANDUM

To: All Physicians & Nurse Practitioners, Newfoundland & Labrador
Date: May 6, 2022
Re: Changes to ANA/ACA testing
From: Clinical Biochemistry Department, Laboratory Medicine, Eastern Health

Dear Colleagues,

Beginning May 9, 2022, the laboratory will discontinue all reflexive testing from positive Antinuclear antibody (ANA; also called anti-cellular antibody or ACA) screens. A detailed summary of changes follow:

- ANA results will appear on reports under the test name ANA/ACA (*for Anti-nuclear antibody and Anti-cellular antibody*) and can still be ordered as **ANA** or **ACA**.
- The specific anti-cellular antibody panel will appear on reports under the test name ENA/specific ACA Panel and, if clinically indicated can be ordered separately as **ENA** or as **specific anti-cellular antibodies**. This panel includes 17 specific anti-cellular antibodies including a qualitative screen for **dsDNA** autoantibody, the traditional ENA autoantibodies (*for Anti-RNP, Anti-Sm, Anti SSA (Ro), Anti SSB (La), Anti Scl-70, Anti Jo-1*) plus others (including antibodies for *Nucleosomes, Histones, SmD1, PCNA, P0, CENP-B, AMA M2, PM-Scl, Mi-2, Ku, and M2 anti-mitochondria antibody*). Disease associations will not be reported.
- The ENA/specific ACA Panel tests will be reported on a semiquantitative scale as Negative, Borderline, Weakly Positive, Positive, and Strongly Positive.
- Requests for ENA/specific ACA Panel will only be done: 1) if ordered in follow-up for a positive ANA/ACA with a completed LTSA form; or 2) if ordered by a Rheumatologist.
- Specific requests for **dsDNA** will only be completed: 1) if requested by a Rheumatologist; or 2) for monitoring purposes in a diagnosed SLE patient (*submit a LTSA form to avoid delays*).

The laboratory holds samples that are positive for ANA/ACA or positive for ENA/specific ACA Panel test for a 2-week period in case follow-up tests are required on the same sample.

If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to:

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Dr. Vinita Thakur, ph: 709-777-6375.