



Westman Regional Laboratory

Services Incorporated

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Memorandum

Date: December 11, 2008

To: Physicians referring work to WRL

From: Sheila Ozamoto, Technical director, Immunology

Re: Testing for Antinuclear Antibodies (ANA)

The DSM Immunology Discipline team in conjunction with Westman Regional Laboratory wishes to advise that effective December 15, 2008, there will be a standardization and consolidation of the Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) screening service.

The test will be performed by the Immunology Laboratory at the St. Boniface Hospital. Indirect immunofluorescence (IFA) will be retained as the test methodology until further notice.

Specimen requirements remain unchanged. The test is performed Monday through Friday. Please note that an indication of the working diagnosis on the requisition will facilitate testing. Reports will be issued directly to the sender's location and a similar report format will be used. It is expected that turn-around-times for result reporting will not be affected by this change.

The existing test algorithm will be followed in which all positive specimens will automatically be tested for ENA (Extractable Nuclear Antigen) and dsDNA (double stranded DNA).

If there is a clinical suspicion that an ANA cytoplasmic staining pattern requires further ASMA (Anti smooth muscle antibody) or AMA (Anti mitochondrial antibody) investigation, a new specimen may be recollected and sent specifically for these tests.

Until further notification, specimens may continue to be referred through Westman Regional Laboratory.

Please direct any questions or concerns to:

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