

DATE:	13 May 2024
TO:	All Sites: Physicians, Nurses and Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Updated Pediatric Anti-Nuclear Antibody (ANA) Cutoff

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective May 28, 2024, Pediatric Anti-Nuclear Antibody (ANA) results will flag positive when titre is 1:80 or greater.
 - Current cutoff of 1:40 generates a significant number of false positive results, leading to excessive referrals and unnecessary follow-up investigations.

Background

- The ANA test employs indirect immunofluorescence to detect autoantibodies in patient serum that react with antigens located in the nucleus or cytoplasm of Hep2 cells.
- Patient samples are sequentially diluted (e.g. 1:80, 1:640), and the highest dilution that shows detectable fluorescence is used to report 'positive' results.
- Currently, APL utilizes a positivity cutoff at 1:40 for pediatrics and 1:80 for adults, however the literature does not support the lower cutoff for pediatrics.
 - Numerous false positive results also occur with a lower cutoff, thus leading to excessive Rheumatology referrals and unnecessary follow-up for the patient.

Action Required

- Be aware that pediatric patient ANA results will now be screened at 1:80.

Questions or Concerns may be directed to

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Reviewed and Approved by

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemistry Section Chief, South Sector, APL
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- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengle, Medical Director, North Sector, APL

Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.