

**Date:** July 2, 2019  
**To:** Former DTH part of AHS Central Zone, Calgary and Edmonton Zones.  
**From:** Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Transfer of ANA and anti-DNA testing from former DTH part of AHS Central Zone to Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

### Key Message:

- Currently, in the former DTH part of Central Zone Alberta Health Services, anti-nuclear antibody screening (ANA) and anti-double stranded DNA antibody testing is performed at Red Deer Regional Hospital.
- Effective July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, ANA screening as well as anti-double stranded DNA antibody testing for the former DTH part of AHS Central Zone will be referred out to the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary.

### Why this is important:

- The change in ANA screening will include the expansion and interpretation of more ANA patterns according to the International Consensus on ANA Patterns (ICAP) initiative (Damoiseaux J et al., Clinical relevance of HEp-2 indirect immunofluorescent patterns: the International Consensus on ANA patterns (ICAP) perspective. Ann Rheum Dis. 2019 Jul;78(7):879-889. doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2018-214436. Epub 2019 Mar 12.)
- Anti-double stranded DNA antibody measurement will change from semi-quantitative to quantitative methodology which is traceable to Wo/80 dsDNA standard from the World Health Organization.

Results of Anti-double stranded DNA antibody testing obtained in Calgary are reported as follows:

Result (kIU/L)	Interpretation
<= 4	Negative
5-9	Indeterminate
>=10	Positive

- The anti-double stranded DNA antibody method at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary is more sensitive compared to that used at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, so a higher rate of positivity will be expected. If clinically indicated, consider re-establishing anti-double stranded DNA baseline using the Calgary method for those patients who previously tested positive in the Central Zone.

References: <http://www.ANAPatterns.org>

**Action Required:**

- Be aware of changes in methodology and reporting differences of ANA screening and anti-double stranded DNA antibody testing

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Dr. Yury Butorin, Clinical Biochemist, Red Deer Regional Hospital, Alberta Public Laboratories
- Dr. Alex C. Chin, Clinical Biochemist, Diagnostic and Scientific Centre, Calgary, Alberta Public Laboratories

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

- Dr Garnet Horne, Central Zone Clinical Department Head, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre