






## Memorandum – Immunology # 22

To: UNC Medical Center Attending Physicians, Faculty  
Practice Physicians, House staff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators,  
Department Heads and Supervisors

From:  John Schmitz, PhD  
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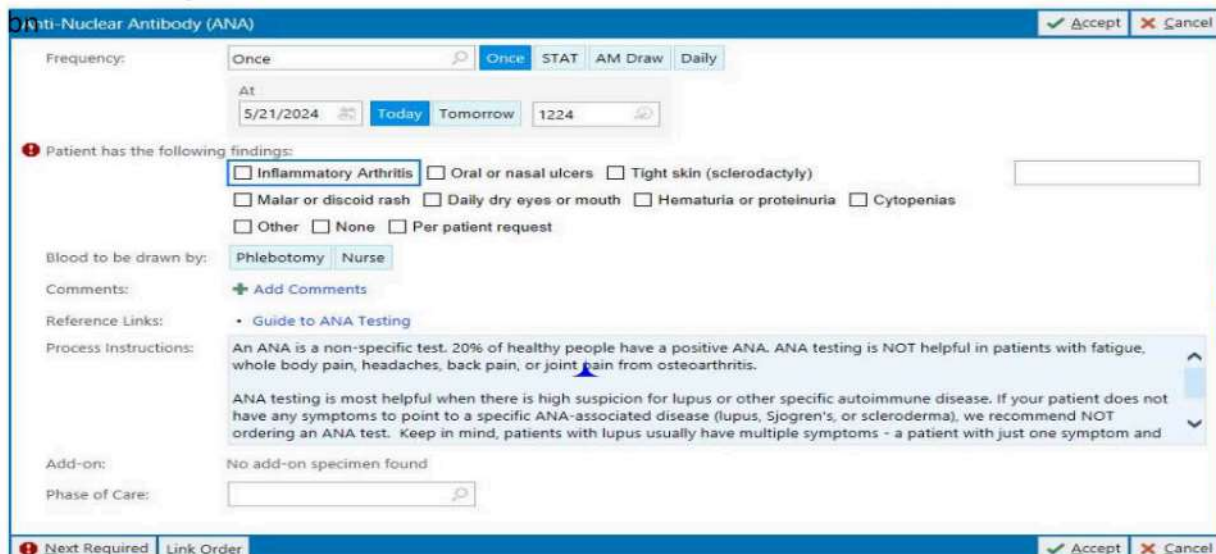
 Eric Weimer, PhD  
Associate Director, Immunology Laboratory

 Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD  
Medical Director, McLendon Laboratories

Date: July 26, 2024

Subject: **ANA Stewardship**

Effective August 1, 2024, a decision support tool will be implemented for the Anti-nuclear antibody (ANA). Ordering providers will be prompted to check boxes for current symptoms when ordering an ANA.



Anti-Nuclear Antibody (ANA) Accept Cancel

Frequency:  Once STAT AM Draw Daily

At:  Today Tomorrow

**Patient has the following findings:**

Inflammatory Arthritis  Oral or nasal ulcers  Tight skin (sclerodactyly)

Malar or discoid rash  Daily dry eyes or mouth  Hematuria or proteinuria  Cytopenias

Other  None  Per patient request

Blood to be drawn by:

Comments: + Add Comments

Reference Links: 

- [Guide to ANA Testing](#)

Process Instructions: An ANA is a non-specific test. 20% of healthy people have a positive ANA. ANA testing is NOT helpful in patients with fatigue, whole body pain, headaches, back pain, or joint pain from osteoarthritis.

ANA testing is most helpful when there is high suspicion for lupus or other specific autoimmune disease. If your patient does not have any symptoms to point to a specific ANA-associated disease (lupus, Sjogren's, or scleroderma), we recommend NOT ordering an ANA test. Keep in mind, patients with lupus usually have multiple symptoms - a patient with just one symptom and

Add-on:

Phase of Care:

Next Required Link Order Accept Cancel

The tool also contains useful information regarding indication and interpretation of the ANA test. Additional information about ANA testing can be found at our new website: <https://www.med.unc.edu/medicine/rheumatology-allergy-immunology/patient-care/rheumatology-clinical-care/decoding-the-ana-a-guide-to-ana-testing/>

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