

**CHANGE TO IMMUNOLOGY BLOOD TEST PROVISION**  
**Planned Changes to the Immunology Service at BRILS**  
**– Additional Separate Serum Sample for All Immunology Testing**  
**Required**

***Full message:***

As of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, part of the Immunology service for BRILS (Barnsley and Rotherham Integrated Laboratory Services) will transfer over to the Immunology Department at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. This is part of the wider South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Pathology (SYBP) transformation project. In South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw the five Acute Trusts are working together to develop a single Pathology Service; this is to benefit both patients and staff in a way that could not be achieved by each Trust in isolation.

Changeover will be a managed, measured change and quality standards will, as a minimum, be maintained. There are some differences in turnaround times, with improved turnaround (TAT) for some tests and slightly lengthened TATs for others. **This is not detrimental to patient care.** If any test is required more urgently, please contact Rotherham Immunology on **01709 42(4250)**. There will be some differences in the reporting of results (quantitative vs qualitative, or some slight differences in reference ranges) and the handbook will be updated to reflect these changes. As part of this work, there will be some changes to our current practice which **we will start to implement over the coming weeks.**

Samples will be stored frozen for a minimum of 1 month at Sheffield following testing. Please contact Immunology lab at Rotherham on the number above if you require any additional Immunology tests adding, or complete the add on request form. **We will require a separate serum sample for all Immunology testing.**

As a reminder, please see the link to guidance on minimal testing intervals to ensure Immunology tests are not over requested. See section 4 for the Immunology recommendations:

[https://www.rcpath.org/static/253e8950-3721-4aa2-8ddd4bd94f73040e/g147\\_national-minimum\\_retesting\\_intervals\\_in\\_pathology.pdf](https://www.rcpath.org/static/253e8950-3721-4aa2-8ddd4bd94f73040e/g147_national-minimum_retesting_intervals_in_pathology.pdf)

**Contact details for people to find out more information:**

For questions or queries, please contact [angela.wardle1@nhs.net](mailto:angela.wardle1@nhs.net). or [thomas.owen3@nhs.net](mailto:thomas.owen3@nhs.net)

**The Immunology Tests Affected are listed on page 2 :-**

The affected tests are:

| Test   | Comments   |
|--|--|
| Antinuclear antibodies (ANA)                     |  |
| Liver kidney stomach (LKS) tissue multiblot      | Includes mitochondrial antibody, smooth muscle antibody, parietal cell antibody and liver kidney microsomal antibody |
| Anti Nuclear Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA)         |  |
| Confirmatory ANCA testing (PR3, MPO)             |  |
| IgA Tissue Transglutaminase (TTG)                |  |
| Confirmatory IgA Endomysial antibodies           |  |
| Extractable Nuclear Antigen (ENA) screen         | Also used as a confirmatory test based on the ANA result   |
| Confirmatory ENA Typings                         |  |
| dsDNA Antibody                                   | Also used as a confirmatory test based on the ANA result   |
| Confirmatory dsDNA by Crithidia lucillae         |  |
| Intrinsic Factor Antibody                        |  |
| Gliadin antibodies                               |  |
| Anti Glomerular Basement Membrane Antibody (GBM) |  |
| Anti Centromere B Abs                            | Confirmatory test based on ANA result  |
| IgG TTG  | Additional test performed on IgA deficient patients to rule out coeliac disease                                      |
| Anti Mitochondrial M2 Abs                        | Confirmatory test based on LKS result  |

As part of this work, there will be some changes to our current practice which **we will start to implement over the coming weeks:**

| Test(s)                     | Change to current practice/Comments   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ANA, LKS                    | No longer performing confirmatory (reflex) testing on positive results  |
| dsDNA by Crithidia lucillae | Will only be reflexed on the first positive dsDNA ELISA result  |
| IgA endomysial antibodies   | Will only be reflexed on weakly positive IgA TTGs. Strongly positive IgA TTGs will no longer trigger a reflex IgA TTG   |
| IgG TTG                     | Will no longer be reflexed where total IgA is low, but this test can still be requested if required   |
| Immunology profiles         | What is stated on the request form is exactly what will be tested e.g. currently, if an ENA is requested, ANA will be tested also. Please ensure all required tests are selected when making the request. |
| PR3 and MPO                 | No change – will continue to reflex PR3 and MPO on positive ANCA screens  |
| ENA typings                 | No change – will continue to reflex ENA typings on positive ENA screens   |
| Total IgA on low IgA TTGs   | No change – will continue to reflex Total IgA to rule out IgA deficiency on low IgA TTGs  |