
ANA Test and Interpretation Changes

Dear Regional Pathology Services Clients,

Effective 2/2/2026, ANA IFA testing moved to a new platform, updating test codes ANAIF and ANAIFA with revised screening cutoff and interpretation criteria. Key changes are summarized below.

1. Transition to Helios ANA IFA Platform

- The laboratory is moving from manual ANA IFA to the Helios automated platform.
- SSA/Ro pattern will no longer be explicitly reported; Helios reports broad patterns (e.g., homogeneous, speckled, nucleolar).

2. Reflex Testing Workflow

- The ANA Panel (Test Code ANAPN), including SSA/Ro, SSB/La, Sm, RNP, will continue to be reflexed when ANA titer is **≥ 1:160**.
- ⊖ For patients with symptoms suggestive of Sjögren's syndrome, lupus, or neonatal lupus risk, consider ordering SSA/Ro testing (Test Code SSAROA) regardless of ANA pattern or titer.

3. Screening Cutoff

- ANA screening cutoff will be adjusted to **1:160** to align with current guidelines and improve specificity.

4. Interpretation Comment Update

- **New comment for positive ANA results:**

"Titors of 1:160 and above do not necessarily indicate a systemic disease process. The result of this test must be interpreted by a healthcare provider in the context of other clinical signs and symptoms. If there is uncertainty regarding the clinical significance of this test result, the provider should consider an e-consult to Rheumatology."

Action Required:

Please review these changes and incorporate them into your clinical decision-making.

For questions, please contact:
Tess Karre, MD(FCAP), MT(ASCP)
Associate Professor, Medical Director of Microbiology
tekarre@unmc.edu
Office: 402-552-6490

Regional Pathology Services

Call: 800-334-0459 | email: pathpatientservrps@unmc.edu