

Full Report



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Minimum retesting intervals are not endorsements of repeat testing. They are recommendations that any repeat testing should not be done sooner than the indicated intervals.

Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) Minimum Retesting Intervals

Advisory Recommendations

1. If a previous ANA test is positive, do not reorder ANA for monitoring patients with suspected or confirmed systemic autoimmune disease.
2. If a previous ANA test is negative or borderline positive, do not reorder ANA for monitoring patients with suspected or confirmed systemic autoimmune disease.

An exception to this recommendation is if the clinical status of the patient significantly changes with newly developed symptoms, in which case ANA may be retested.

Advisory Panel Implementation Advice

Recommendation 1: To support reductions in unnecessary retesting, labs may consider implementing a 5-year hard stop minimum retesting interval.

Recommendation 2: To support reductions in unnecessary retesting, labs may consider implementing a 24-month hard stop minimum retesting interval.

Using Minimum Retesting Intervals in Practice

These minimum retesting interval recommendations are intended to inform decisions about repeat testing. Clinicians should exercise clinical judgment as there may be exceptions (e.g., certain patient populations) and scenarios in which the recommendations do not apply. Labs will need to consider their local context and the capabilities of the laboratory information system when implementing minimum retesting intervals.

For a more detailed look at the guidance produced by the Advisory Panel on Minimum Retesting Intervals for Lab Tests, view the full report on cadth.ca:

[Minimum Retesting Intervals for Lab Tests](#)



Choosing Wisely Canada is the national voice for reducing unnecessary tests and treatments in Canada. Using Labs Wisely is a national consortium of more than 150 hospitals committed to making a measurable impact on reducing low-value lab testing in Canada.

CADTH and Choosing Wisely Canada partnered to host an advisory panel that developed recommended minimum retesting intervals for 5 commonly used lab tests. We aim to support the appropriate use of health care resources by reducing unnecessary lab testing and its impact on patients, providers, health systems, and the environment.



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