

Laboratory Services Newsletter

March 2023

Changes and Closures in Laboratory Service Center Hours

Effective Monday, March 6 we are making a couple changes to our offsite lab hours of operations:

- We will be closing walk-in lab services at all our **urgent care locations** at **7:00 p.m.** This change applies to **walk-in patients and families only.** (We will continue to offer lab services for patients who are being treated in our urgent care centers whenever the urgent care site is open.)
- We will be **closing** our Grove City Laboratory Services location for three months beginning on March 6. This change is temporary while we work to hire and train staff. We will encourage providers and patients to access our lab services at one of our other laboratory service centers.

Laboratory March is National Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month

Focus on Lupus in Children

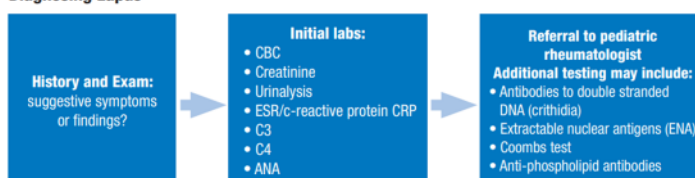
What is Lupus? Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE; lupus) is a chronic and heterogeneous autoimmune disorder that can affect any organ in the body. The disease is more severe in children and adolescents compared to adults. Uncontrolled lupus can cause severe complications including kidney damage from lupus nephritis and psychosis, seizures, stroke and cognitive problems from central nervous system involvement. Early diagnosis is important to prevent organ damage. Lupus can be confused with other conditions that have similar symptoms including infections, leukemia, other types of arthritis such as juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and other autoimmune diseases. Pediatric lupus has a prevalence of 3.3-8.8 per 100,000 children and is more frequently observed in certain ethnic backgrounds and less common in caucasian children.

Symptoms of Lupus

Children and adolescents may present with a variety of symptoms of lupus, several of which may also be shared with other autoimmune diseases. Due to the variable manifestations, a high index of suspicion and thoughtful approach to screening is needed to avoid unnecessary delays in diagnosis. Most physicians use the 11 criteria for Lupus provided by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR). Usually, at least 4 of the 11 ACR criteria should be present to make a diagnosis of SLE

SYMPTOMS OF LUPUS	
Unexplained fevers Unexplained weight loss Enlarged lymph nodes Alopecia Rashes	Unexplained high blood pressure Sores in mouth or nose Joint pain and swelling Chest pain Shortness of breath Kidney disorder Abnormalities in the blood

Diagnosing Lupus



Additional information can be found on our website under **(Clinical Tools): Diagnosing Lupus in Pediatric Patients**

For more information about these updates, please contact Nationwide Children's Laboratory Client Services at (614) 722-5477 or (800) 934-6575.

Where to Find the Laboratory Services Newsletter on our Website

Nationwide Children's Laboratory produces Monthly **Newsletters** to keep our clients up-to-date on our tests, our research, and many other items affecting innovations in pediatric laboratory testing. Please visit our website at NationwideChildrens.org/Lab for handy access to past and current monthly newsletters. You will also find other helpful information on our website including:

- Meet our medical and doctoral staff who can answer questions and consult regarding rare and difficult findings [Meet our Team](#)
- Customized pediatric reference ranges, leading to better diagnoses, treatments and outcomes.
- Micro-sampling instrumentation to allow for more accurate results on small sample volumes. View our [Test Directory](#) of more than 1,500 tests focused on the specific needs of children.
- Exceptionally trained pediatric phlebotomists who will provide special care and attention to your child at our conveniently located [Laboratory Service Centers](#) as well as our hours of operation.
- Weekly reports for [respiratory](#) and [gastrointestinal](#) illnesses giving insight into disease trends in the community.
- Annual [Antibiograms](#)
- Educational opportunities for [Providers and Institutions](#)
- Practice tools and other resources for health care providers [Clinical Tools](#)

New Supply Order Forms Your account code:

We have updated our supply order forms on our website. The form is identical except that we have now included an account code. This enhancement will help us to better track your order! The account code can be found on your Requisition or will be supplied by your sales representative. Please make sure you go to our website, NationwideChildrens.org/Lab and follow the link for client supplies and make a new bookmark!

How can Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services help your practice?

- Pediatric pathologist consults on lab results
- Wide acceptance of insurance plans
- Pediatric reference ranges
- Services to enhance the laboratory process in your practice
- Interface compatibility with provider EMR systems

If you would like to become a client or learn more information about Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, contact us at (800) 934-6575 or visit our website at NationwideChildrens.org/Lab. Would you like to receive the Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Newsletter electronically? Please e-mail us at LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org and let us know!