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29/10/2024

**Re: Notification of technique change for the investigation of Acetylcholine receptor (ACHR) antibodies and MUScle Specific Kinase (MUSK) antibodies at Laboratory Immunology, Oxford**

Dear Colleagues,

From the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Oxford will be changing its algorithm and testing options for detecting the presence of ACHR and MUSK antibodies.

Currently Oxford offers the following testing options:

- ACHR antibodies by Radioimmunoprecipitation (RIA) – quantitative
- MUSK antibodies by RIA – qualitative
- High sensitivity myasthenic screen (ACHR/MUSK/LRP4) by live cell Indirect immunofluorescence (IIF)

From the 25<sup>th</sup> November, we will be no longer performing the MUSK antibody test via RIA and will instead be offering a new front line screen via fixed cell IIF for ACHR and MUSK antibodies. All new patients for myasthenic investigations can only have one of the following tests performed:

- ACHR/MUSK antibodies by fixed cell IIF
- High sensitivity myasthenic screen (ACHR/MUSK/LRP4) by live cell IIF

For all patients found to be positive for ACHR antibodies on the new fixed cell method, they will be reflex tested on the ACHR antibody RIA test, so that a quantitative value can be determined.

For existing, documented, ACHR antibody positive patients, the fixed cell method will be bypassed and only testing via the ACHR antibody RIA will be performed.

The UK price of the fixed cell myasthenic screen will be £30.00, and the ACHR antibody RIA will be £21.30.

Yours faithfully



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