DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC.

Technical Memorandum

TO: Physicians, Clinical Staff and Clients

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Date: May 18, 2026

Subject: Lupus Anticoagulant Testing (SCT Screen and Confirm)

DLS will launch a new assay (test code: 8449)- Silica Clotting Time (SCT) for lupus anticoagulant (LA) detection. LA are antiphospholipid antibodies that can interfere with clotting tests and are associated with an increased risk of thrombosis and recurrent miscarriage.

SCT Screen and SCT Confirm are designed to simplify and standardize LA detection in clinical testing. SCT Screen contains a low phospholipid concentration, making it sensitive to LA. SCT Confirm contains a higher phospholipid concentration, which neutralizes LA and results in shorter clotting times. Because silica clotting time directly activates the intrinsic pathway in the presence of calcium, SCT Screen and SCT Confirm are not affected by factor VII deficiencies or inhibitors. In addition, the screen-to-confirm ratio reduces the impact of warfarin therapy on test results. As a result, SCT Screen and SCT Confirm provide greater specificity for LA detection compared to APTT or dilute PT. Results should continue to be interpreted using the established three-step algorithm: screening, mixing, and confirmation.

The Silica Clotting Time assay is not intended to replace the current DRVVT-based lupus anticoagulant test (test code: 6674). Rather, it will be offered as an additional assay for LA detection. Current guidelines recommend using at least two phospholipid-dependent clotting assays based on different principles before excluding the presence of a lupus anticoagulant. SCT may serve as a second test in patients who test negative for LA by the DRVVT-based assay.

Lupus anticoagulant assays should not be ordered for patients receiving anticoagulant therapy. Anticoagulants, including direct oral anticoagulants such as factor Xa and thrombin inhibitors, unfractionated heparin, and low-molecular-weight heparin, may mask or mimic pathological findings and lead to false-positive or false-negative results. Testing under these conditions significantly compromises assay interpretation.

If you have any questions, please call Client Services at 808-589-5101.