

9 January 2015

**From:** John Scott, Technical Head, Virology and Immunology

**Subject:** NMDA Antibodies

From January 26, 2015 N-methyl-D-aspartate glutamate receptor antibodies (NMDA) will be tested at LabPLUS.

### **NMDA antibodies**

Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis is a disease occurring when antibodies produced by the body's own immune system attack NMDA receptors in the brain. NMDA receptors are proteins that control electrical impulses in the brain.

NMDAR antibodies are commonly associated with a tumour but they are now also found in males or females with no known tumour and in young children.

### **Testing prerequisites**

It is a prerequisite that all patients referred for this testing must have undergone a neurology review. Please supply approving neurologist's name on the request form.

Testing will be deferred on any specimens where it is unclear whether a neurology review has occurred or not.

### **Specimen collection**

Ideally paired serum and CSF specimens should be sent together for testing, however unpaired specimens will be tested.

Further details will be available soon on our Test Guide

Any queries please feel free to contact me via LabLink on 09 307 8995.