Accommodation and Compliance Series: Lupus

Job Accommodation Network
PO Box 6080
Morgantown, WV 26506-6080
(800)526-7234 (V)
(877)781-9403 (TTY)
jan@askjan.org
AskJAN.org

Funded by a contract with the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor
Preface

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is funded by a contract with the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor. JAN makes documents available with the understanding that the information be used solely for educational purposes. The information is not intended to be legal or medical advice. If legal or medical advice is needed, appropriate legal or medical services should be contacted.

JAN does not endorse or recommend any products or services mentioned in this publication. Although every effort is made to update resources, JAN encourages contacting product manufacturers/vendors and service providers directly to ensure that they meet the intended purposes. This guarantees that the most up-to-date information is obtained.

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Updated 01/24/2019.
JAN'S Accommodation and Compliance Series

Introduction

JAN's Accommodation and Compliance Series is designed to help employers determine effective accommodations and comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Each publication in the series addresses a specific medical condition and provides information about the condition, ADA information, accommodation ideas, and resources for additional information.

The Accommodation and Compliance Series is a starting point in the accommodation process and may not address every situation. Accommodations should be made on a case by case basis, considering each employee's individual limitations and accommodation needs. Employers are encouraged to contact JAN to discuss specific situations in more detail.

For information on assistive technology and other accommodation ideas, visit JAN's Searchable Online Accommodation Resource (SOAR) at https://askjan.org/soar.

Information about Lupus

Lupus is a widespread and chronic autoimmune disease that, for unknown reasons, causes the immune system to attack the body's own tissue and organs, including the joints, kidneys, heart, lungs, brain, blood, or skin. The immune system normally protects the body against viruses, bacteria, and other foreign materials. In an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissue. The immune system then makes antibodies directed against "self." There are several forms of lupus: cutaneous, systemic, drug-induced, neonatal, and overlap syndrome or mixed connective tissue disease.

Although lupus can affect any part of the body, the most common symptoms are achy joints, frequent fevers, arthritis, fatigue, skin rashes, kidney problems, chest pain with deep breathing, a butterfly-shaped rash across the cheek and nose, photosensitivity, impaired vision, Raynaud's phenomenon, and seizures. No single set of symptoms is uniformly specific to lupus and no laboratory test can prove lupus conclusively; symptoms may disappear for no apparent reason and remain in remission for weeks, months, or even years.

Lupus and the Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA does not contain a list of medical conditions that constitute disabilities. Instead, the ADA has a general definition of disability that each person must meet. A
person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having an impairment. For more information about how to determine whether a person has a disability under the ADA, see How to Determine Whether a Person Has a Disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA).

Accommodating Employees with Lupus

People with lupus may develop some of the limitations discussed below, but seldom develop all of them. Also, the degree of limitation will vary among individuals. Be aware that not all people with lupus will need accommodations to perform their jobs and many others may only need a few accommodations. The following is only a sample of the possibilities available. Numerous other accommodation solutions may exist.

Questions to Consider:

1. What limitations is the employee experiencing?
2. How do these limitations affect the employee and the employee’s job performance?
3. What specific job tasks are problematic as a result of these limitations?
4. What accommodations are available to reduce or eliminate these problems? Are all possible resources being used to determine possible accommodations?
5. Has the employee been consulted regarding possible accommodations?
6. Once accommodations are in place, would it be useful to meet with the employee to evaluate the effectiveness of the accommodations and to determine whether additional accommodations are needed?
7. Do supervisory personnel and employees need training?

Accommodation Ideas:

Limitations

Attentiveness/Concentration

- Alternative Lighting
- Applications (apps)
- Apps for Memory
- Behavior Modification Techniques
- Cubicle Doors, Shields, and Shades
• Electronic Organizers
• Environmental Sound Machines / Tinnitus Maskers / White Noise Machines
• Flexible Schedule
• Full Spectrum or Natural Lighting Products
• Job Coaches
• Job Restructuring
• Marginal Functions
• Modified Break Schedule
• Noise Canceling Headsets
• Sound Absorption and Sound Proof Panels
• Task Separation
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Timers and Watches
• Uninterrupted "Off" Work Time
• Verbal Cues
• Wall Calendars and Planners
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace
• Written Instructions

Balancing
• Aerial Lifts
• All-Terrain Scooters
• All-Terrain Wheelchairs
• Anti-fatigue Matting
• Canes
• Crutches
• Evacuation Devices
• Fall Protection
• Grab Bars
• Grab Bars - Toilet Hinged Arm Support
• Leg Extenders for Walkers
• Padded Edging
• Personal Safety and Fall Alert Devices
• Personal Transportation and Mobility Products
• Rolling Safety Ladders
• Rollators and Rolling Walkers
• Scooters
• Stair Assists
• Stair Lifts
• Swing Away Grab Bars
• Toileting Aids
• Walkers
• Walkers for Tall Individuals
• Walkers with Seats

Decreased Stamina/Fatigue
• Aide/Assistant/Attendant
• Anti-fatigue Matting
• Elevating Wheelchairs
• Ergonomic Assessments
• Ergonomic Equipment
• Flexible Schedule
• Job Restructuring
• Periodic Rest Breaks
• Scooters
• Stand-lean Stools
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Walkers
• Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
• Wheelchairs
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

Handling/Fingering
- Aide/Assistant/Attendant
- Alternative Input Devices
- Alternative Keyboards
- Alternative Mice
- Anti-vibration Gloves
- Anti-vibration Tool Wraps
- Articulating Keyboard Trays
- Book Holders
- Compact Material Handling
- Ergonomic and Pneumatic Tools
- Ergonomic Equipment
- Expanded Keyboards
- Extra Grip Gloves
- Forearm Supports
- Grip Aids
- Keyguards
- Miniature Keyboards
- Money Handling Products
- On-Screen Keyboards
- One-Handed Keyboards
- Page Turners
- Periodic Rest Breaks
- Scribe/Notetaker
- Speech Recognition Software
- Typing / Keyboarding Aids
- Vacuum Pickup Tools
- Writing Aids

Headache
- Air Cleaners & Purifiers
- Alternative Lighting
- Anti-Glare Filters for Fluorescent Lights
• Cubicle Doors, Shields, and Shades
• Environmental Sound Machines / Tinnitus Maskers / White Noise Machines
• Flexible Schedule
• Full Spectrum or Natural Lighting Products
• Job Restructuring
• Lighting Gel Filters
• Marginal Functions
• Modified Break Schedule
• Non-Fluorescent Lighting
• Task Lighting
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely

Low Vision
• Accessible Mobile Phones
• Accessible Telephones
• Apps for Individuals with Vision Impairment
• External Computer Screen Magnification
• Head-mounted Magnifiers
• Large Button Phones
• Large Visual Display for Telephone
• Lighted Reading Glasses
• Low Vision Office Supplies
• Magnification (Hand or Stand)
• Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Systems - Scan
• Portable Video/Electronic Magnifiers
• Screen Magnification and Screen Reading Combined
• Screen Magnification Software
• Sewing Aids for Individuals with Vision Impairment
• Tactile Timepieces/Watches
• Talking Alarm Clocks
• Talking Bar Code Scanner/Reader
• Talking Blood Glucose Monitors
• Talking Blood Pressure Monitors
• Talking Cash Register
• Talking Color Detector
• Talking Copier
• Talking Money Identifier
• Talking Scales
• Talking Telephones
• Talking Watches

Organizing/Planning/Prioritizing
• Applications (apps)
• Apps for Organization/ Time Management
• Color-coded Manuals, Outlines, and Maps
• Electronic Organizers
• Ergonomic Equipment
• Job Coaches
• Job Restructuring
• On-site Mentoring
• Organization Software
• Professional Organizers
• Reminders
• Supervisory Methods
• Task Identification
• Task Separation
• Timers and Watches
• Wall Calendars and Planners
• Written Instructions

Pain
• Adjustable Workstations for Industrial Settings
• Adjustable Workstations for Office Settings
• Aide/Assistant/Attendant
• Alternative Input Devices
• Alternative Keyboards
• Alternative Mice
• Anti-fatigue Matting
• Anti-vibration Gloves
• Anti-vibration Seats
• Anti-vibration Tool Wraps
• Automatic Door Openers
• Carts
• Chairs with Head Support
• Compact Material Handling
• Ergonomic and Adjustable Office Chairs
• Ergonomic Assessments
• Ergonomic Equipment
• Fans
• Flexible Schedule
• Forearm Supports
• Gooseneck and Other Telephone Holders
• Headsets
• Modified Break Schedule
• Scooters
• Scribe/Notetaker
• Service Animal
• Speech Recognition Software
• Stand-lean Stools
• Supine Workstations
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace
• Workstation Space Heaters
• Writing Aids

Respiratory Distress/Breathing Problem
• Air Cleaners & Purifiers
• Air Purifiers for Multiple Chemical Sensitivity
• Personal Air Cleaner (Neckworn)

Seizure Activity
• Designated Responders
• Disability Awareness/Etiquette Training
• Fall Protection
• Flexible Schedule
• Job Restructuring
• Modified Break Schedule
• Modified Lighting
• Padded Edging
• Plan of Action
• Policy Modification
• Protective Eyewear
• Rest Area/Private Space
• Rolling Safety Ladders
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Timers and Watches
• Transportation Assistance
• Voice Recorders
• Wall Calendars and Planners
• Workplace Safety
• Written Instructions

Skin Rash/Blisters/Sores
• Alternative Cleaning Supplies
• Disability Awareness/Etiquette Training
• Job Restructuring
• Policy Modification

Stress Intolerance
• Apps for Anxiety and Stress
• Behavior Modification Techniques
• Counseling/Therapy
• Environmental Sound Machines / Tinnitus Maskers / White Noise Machines
• Flexible Schedule
• Job Restructuring
• Marginal Functions
• Modified Break Schedule
• Supervisory Methods
• Support Animal
• Support Person

Suppressed Immune System
• Disability Awareness/Etiquette Training
• Hand Protection
• Policy Modification
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

Temperature Sensitivity
• Air Deflectors
• Cold Resistant Gloves
• Cooling Clothing
• Fans
• Flexible Schedule
• Heated Clothing
• Heated Ergonomic and Computer Products
• Heated Gloves
• Portable Air Conditioners
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Vent Covers
• Workstation Space Heaters

Toileting/Grooming Issue
• Accessible Toilets and Toilet Seats
• Aide/Assistant/Attendant
• Flexible Schedule
• Grab Bars - Toilet Hinged Arm Support
• Grooming and Dressing Aids
• Independent Living Aids
• Modified Break Schedule
• Swing Away Grab Bars
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Toileting Aids
• Transfer Aids
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

Walking
• Aide/Assistant/Attendant
• All-Terrain Scooters
• All-Terrain Wheelchairs
• Anti-fatigue Matting
• Foldable / Transport Wheelchairs
• Large-Rated Scooters
• Large-Rated Wheelchairs
• Personal Transportation and Mobility Products
• Reclining Wheelchairs
• Rollators and Rolling Walkers
• Scooters
• Scooters for Small Stature
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Walkers
- Walkers for Tall Individuals
- Walkers with Seats
- Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
- Wheelchairs
- Wheelchairs for Small Stature
- Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

**Work-Related Functions**

**Commut**e
- Flexible Schedule
- Ridesharing/Carpooling
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Transportation Assistance

**Light**
- Alternative Lighting
- Anti-Glare Filters for Fluorescent Lights
- Flexible Schedule
- Fluorescent Light Tube Covers
- Full Spectrum or Natural Lighting Products
- LED Light Filters
- LED Lighting
- Lighting Gel Filters
- Modified Lighting
- Non-Fluorescent Lighting
- Personal Visors
- Simulated Skylights and Windows
- Sun/UV Protective Clothing
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Transparent Window Shades
- UV Protection Shelters
- Vehicle Window Tinting and Shades
Move Items/People
- Adjustable Exam Tables
- Aerial Lifts
- Animal Lift Tables
- Ball Transfer Tables
- Battery Powered Lift Tables
- Carts
- Compact Material Handling
- Compact Mobile Cranes
- Lifting Aids
- Multi-Purpose Carts
- Proper Lifting Techniques
- Vacuum Lifts
- Vacuum Pickup Tools
- Walk-up Changing Tables

Parking
- Accessible Parking Space
- Flexible Schedule
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Wheelchairs

Stress
- Apps for Anxiety and Stress
- Behavior Modification Techniques
- Counseling/Therapy
- Flexible Schedule
- Job Restructuring
- Marginal Functions
- Modified Break Schedule
- On-site Mentoring
- Service Animal
- Simulated Skylights and Windows
- Supervisory Methods
- Support Animal
- Support Person
- Task Rotation
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Uninterrupted Work Time
Situations and Solutions:

A college professor with lupus requested the accommodation of an office with windows to utilize natural lighting. Because professors with more seniority were offered the offices with windows, the employer wasn’t sure if, because of a union agreement, it would be possible to override the seniority issue. JAN suggested the use of full-spectrum lighting that has nearly the same effect as the natural lighting and can be found in task lighting, desk and floor lamps, light boxes, and torchieres, as well as replacement bulbs for existing lighting. The college decided to change out the lighting in stages and consult with the employee and her doctor to determine how that could be done effectively.

A health care worker with lupus had low vision. She was having difficulty viewing her computer screen and paper copies. The individual was accommodated with a large monitor, screen magnification software, hand/stand magnifier for paper copies, and a closed circuit television system.

A corporate trainer with lupus had difficulty standing and walking when giving presentations. The individual was accommodated with a scooter for getting around the work-site and a stand/lean stool to support her weight when standing.

An insurance clerk with arthritis from systemic lupus erythematosus was experiencing pain in her back, neck, and hands from sitting for long periods of time doing computer work. She was accommodated with speech recognition software, an ergonomic chair, and an adjustable sit/stand workstation.

An engineer with lupus was having difficulty completing all of his work in the office due to fatigue. The individual was accommodated with frequent rest breaks, a flexible schedule, and work from home on a part-time basis.

A claims representative with lupus was sensitive to fluorescent light in his office and to the radiation emitted from his computer monitor. The overhead lights were changed from fluorescent to broad spectrum by using a special filter that fit onto the existing light fixture. The individual was also accommodated with a glare guard and flicker-free monitor.

An executive secretary with lupus had severe back pain due to arthritis. The individual was accommodated with an adjustable height workstation to alternate between sitting and standing, an adjustable keyboard and mouse tray, and an ergonomic chair with lumbar support.

A systems analyst with lupus had migraine headaches. The individual was moved from a cubicle office to a separate workspace away from
distractions and noise. He was then able to use task lighting instead of overhead fluorescent lighting and adjust the temperature control when necessary.

**Products**

There are numerous products that can be used to accommodate people with limitations. JAN’s Searchable Online Accommodation Resource at [https://askjan.org/soar](https://askjan.org/soar) is designed to let users explore various accommodation options. Many product vendor lists are accessible through this system; however, JAN provides these lists and many more that are not available on the Web site upon request. Contact JAN directly if you have specific accommodation situations, are looking for products, need vendor information, or are seeking a referral.
Resources

Job Accommodation Network
West Virginia University
PO Box 6080
Morgantown, WV 26506-6080
Toll Free: (800) 526-7234
TTY: (304) 293-7186
Fax: (304) 293-5407
jan@askjan.org
http://AskJAN.org

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is a free consulting service that provides information about job accommodations, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the employability of people with disabilities.

Office of Disability Employment Policy
200 Constitution Avenue,
NW, Room S-1303
Washington, DC 20210
Toll Free: (866) 633-7365
odep@dol.gov
http://dol.gov/odep

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Labor. ODEP provides national leadership to increase employment opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities while striving to eliminate barriers to employment.

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
22100 Gratiot Ave.
East Detroit, MI 48021
Direct: (586) 776-3900
Fax: (586) 776-3903
http://www.aarda.org
The American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association is dedicated to the eradication of autoimmune diseases and the alleviation of suffering and the socioeconomic impact of autoimmunity through fostering and facilitating collaboration in the areas of education, research, and patient services in an effective, ethical, and efficient manner.

American Chronic Pain Association
P.O. Box 850
Rocklin, CA 95677-0850
Toll Free: (800) 533-3231
Fax: (916) 632-3208
ACPA@theacpa.org
http://www.theacpa.org

The purpose of the American Chronic Pain Association is to facilitate peer support and education for individuals with chronic pain and their families so that these individuals may live more fully in spite of their pain.

Arthritis Foundation
1330 W. Peachtree Street
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30309
Direct: (404) 872-7100
http://www.arthritis.org

The Arthritis Foundation is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, a disease which must be taken as seriously as other chronic diseases because of its devastating consequences. The Arthritis Foundation is leading the way to conquer the nation's leading cause of disability through increased education, outreach, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are dedicated to protecting the health and safety of people - at home and abroad, providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and promoting health through strong partnerships.

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center (GARD)
P.O. Box 8126
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8126
Toll Free: (888) 205-2311
Fax: (301) 251-4911
https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/

The Genetic and Rare Diseases (GARD) Information Center is a program of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and funded by two parts of the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NCATS and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). GARD provides the public with access to current, reliable, and easy to understand information about rare or genetic diseases in English or Spanish.

Lupus Canada
3555 14th Avenue,
Unit #14
Markham, Ontario L3R 0-0H5
Toll Free: (800) 661-1468
Direct: (905) 513-0004
Fax: (905) 513-9516
info@lupuscanada.org
http://www.lupuscanada.org/

Lupus Canada, as a national voluntary organization, in partnership with its members, promotes research to find the causes and a cure for lupus, advocates on behalf of the lupus community, facilitates and coordinates education and public awareness, and supports organizational growth and development.
Lupus Foundation of America
2000 L Street, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036
Toll Free: (800) 558-0121
Direct: (202) 349-1155
Fax: (202) 349-1156
info@lupus.org
http://www.lupus.org/

The Lupus Foundation of America is the only national force devoted to solving the mystery of lupus, one of the world’s cruelest, most unpredictable, and devastating diseases, while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact.

Lupus Research Institute
330 Seventh Avenue
Suite 1701
New York, NY 10001
Direct: (212) 812-9881
Fax: (212) 545-1843
lupus@lupusny.org
http://www.lupusresearchinstitute.org/

The Lupus Research Institute is uniquely dedicated to novel research in lupus. Recognizing that most major medical breakthroughs come from unexpected directions, the LRI fosters and supports only the highest-ranked new science to prevent, treat and cure lupus.

Mayo Clinic
13400 E. Shea Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
Direct: (480) 301-8000
http://www.mayoclinic.org/
The Mayo Clinic's mission to inspire hope and contribute to health and well-being by providing the best care to every patient through integrated clinical practice, education and research.

MedlinePlus
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894
custserv@nlm.nih.gov
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's Web site for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, the world's largest medical library, it brings you information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in language you can understand. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free.

Created by the U.S. National Library of Medicine

National Center for Biotechnology Information
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894
pubmedcentral@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

MISSION: IMS brings together an international community of health care professionals, researchers, educators, and others to improve care and transform delivery of treatment to those suffering from soft tissue pain through the promotion and exchange of globally recognized research, education, and innovation in patient care.
The mission of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases is to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases, the training of basic and clinical scientists to carry out this research, and the dissemination of information on research progress in these diseases.

The NINDS, an agency of the U.S. Federal Government and a component of the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Public Health Service, is a lead agency for the congressionally designated Decade of the Brain, and the leading supporter of biomedical research on disorders of the brain and nervous system.

National Jewish Health is known worldwide for treatment of patients with respiratory, cardiac, immune and related disorders, and for groundbreaking medical research. Founded in 1899 as a nonprofit hospital, National Jewish Health remains the only facility in the world dedicated exclusively to these disorders. *U.S. News & World Report* has
ranked National Jewish Health as the number one or number two hospital in pulmonology on its Best Hospitals list ever since pulmonology was included in the rankings.

National Organization for Rare Disorders
55 Kenosia Avenue
Danbury, CT 06813-1968
Toll Free: (800) 999-6673
Direct: (203) 744-0100
Fax: (203) 263-9938
http://www.rarediseases.org

NORD is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service.

Office on Women's Health
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 712E
Washington, DC 20201
Toll Free: (800) 994-9662
Direct: (202) 690-7650
Fax: (202) 205-2631
http://www.womenshealth.gov/

The Office on Women's Health (OWH), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), works to improve the health and sense of well-being of all U.S. women and girls. OWH serves as the focal point for women's health activities across HHS offices and agencies and leads HHS efforts to ensure that all women and girls achieve the best possible health.

Remedy's Health Communities
http://www.healthcommunities.com
Remedy Health Media is America’s fastest growing health information and technology company. We are a leading provider of clinical resources and wellness tools that help millions of patients and caregivers live healthier, more fulfilled lives.

Our mission is to empower patients and caregivers with the information and applications needed to efficiently navigate the healthcare landscape and as a result, to permit better health outcomes through use of our products and services.

The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy
485 Half Day Road
Suite 350
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Toll Free: (877) 883-9942
Fax: (847) 883-9960
info@tffpn.org
https://www.foundationforpn.org/

The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy is a Public Charity committed to fostering collaboration among today’s most gifted and dedicated neuroscientists and physicians. These specialists from around the country will help us maintain a comprehensive view of the field and determine the research areas that hold the most promise in neuropathy research and treatment to develop new and effective therapies that can reverse, reduce and one day eliminate Peripheral Neuropathy. It is our ultimate goal to utilize every means and opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of those living with this painful and debilitating disorder.

The Lupus Initiative
2200 Lake Blvd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30319
Direct: (404) 633-3777
Fax: (404) 633-1870
info@lupusinitiative.org
http://thelupusinitiative.org/

The initiative is dedicated to improving the diagnosis, treatment, and management of lupus in populations disproportionately affected based on race, ethnicity, and gender.
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