

Client Notification

Date: March 28, 2022

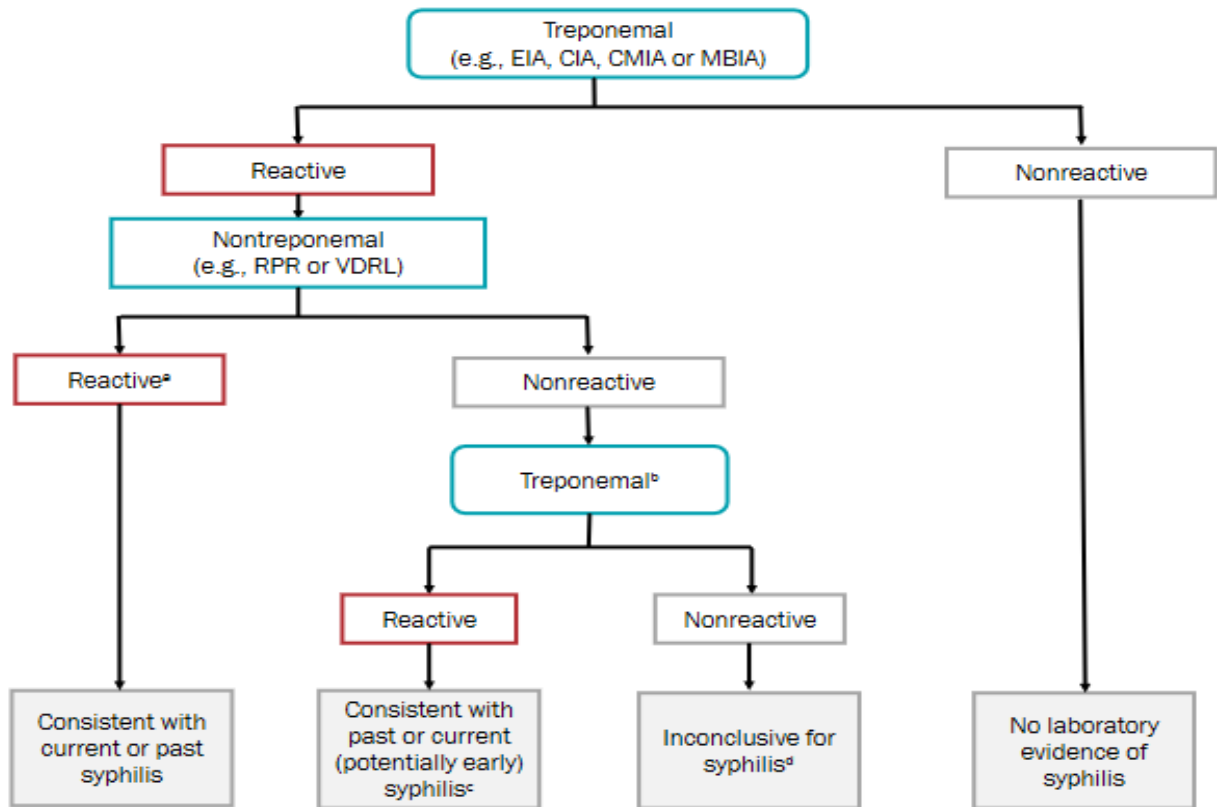
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Effective Date of Change: June 1, 2022

Subject: Syphilis testing changes.

- The State Hygienic Laboratory will begin using the reverse syphilis serology testing algorithm instead of the traditional algorithm.
- The Serology test request form is changing to reflect the reverse syphilis testing algorithm.
- A new *Treponema pallidum* antibody test for syphilis will be the screening test in the reverse syphilis testing algorithm. The test method will be Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CLIA) performed on the DiaSorin Liaison instrument with a qualitative result. Positive treponemal antibody screening tests will be confirmed by the VDRL test. Discordant results will be followed with a second treponemal test (TP-PA).
- APHL reference: https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/std/Documents/ID-2020Aug-Syphilis-Reporting-Language.pdf.

Reverse syphilis testing algorithm:



a. Perform a quantitative nontreponemal test to determine the end-point titer. **b.** The second treponemal test should utilize a unique platform and/or antigen, different than the first treponemal test, commonly a TP-PA is used at this step. Other publications have tables comparing platforms and antigens in treponemal tests.^{3,8,14} **c.** Clinical correlation, including past titer(s), is necessary to determine whether the infection is past, current or potentially early. **d.** This result could represent an early infection if the first treponemal immunoassay is more sensitive OR false positivity from the first treponemal test.

Thank you,

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