New Syphilis Screening Algorithm

The DMCUL is pleased to announce switching to the new syphilis test algorithm.

Background:
Serological testing is essential in the detection and treatment of syphilis infection.
Effective June 04, 2013, the current syphilis test algorithm (RPR with reflex to FTA-abs) will be replaced by a new algorithm that uses a treponemal specific assay as the initial screen with the reflex of positive samples to RPR. The new assay has improved specificity (fewer false positives).

- **Clinical Use:** Diagnosis of *Syphilis* infection and therapeutic monitoring
- **Principle of the test:** Detection of *treponemal specific* antibody in serum
- **Test name:** Syphilis EIA Screen; CPT code: 86780
- **Test Code:** Antrim Code-335299 Sunquest Test Code-SYPH CIS Test Code-SYPH
- **Sample collection:** 5 ml of blood in SST tube
- **Patient preparation:** No special patient preparation
- **Limitations:** A negative result does not rule out the possibility of syphilis. False negative results could be seen in individuals with immune-suppression.
- **Result reporting:** The results are reported as Positive or Negative
- **Storage/Transport Temperature:** Ambient (room temperature)
- **Unacceptable specimens:** grossly hemolyzed or lipemic
- **Production schedule:** 7 days a week, with a 4 hours turn around time after receipt of sample in the laboratory.

Michael Long, PhD, Technical Director, Immunodiagnostic Laboratory
Technical inquiries: 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM: DMCUL Immunodiagnostic Laboratory,(313) 993-0712
New Syphilis test algorithm

Syphilis EIA Screen Test

Syphilis EIA Screen Test +

Quantitative RPR or other nontreponemal test

RPR + Syphilis (past or present)⁴

RPR -

TP-PA

TP-PA + Syphilis (past or present)⁴

TP-PA - Syphilis unlikely⁴

RPR: Rapid Plasma Reagin
TP-PA: Treponema pallidum Particle Agglutination