Changes to RPR and Titer Testing

Effective June 12, 2018, Providence Health & Services Oregon Regional Laboratories will offer RPR and Titer testing in-house using the Gold Standard Diagnostics AIX-1000 agglutination method. Currently, RPR and Titer testing is referred to ARUP. It is anticipated that result turnaround time will improve. Please refer to the table below and the flow chart on the next page for additional detail regarding orderable tests for syphilis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name or Alias</th>
<th>LAB #</th>
<th>When to order?</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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</table>
| RPR with Reflex to Titer | LAB 12035 | Preferred test for monitoring treatment response in patients with an established syphilis diagnosis. | • Reactivity declines over time.  
• Monitors active infection. | • Moderately high rate of false positives if used as screening test. |
| Treponema Pallidum Total Antibody with Reflex | LAB 12341 | Syphilis screening in the general population (low risk patients). Positive results automatically reflex to LAB24309, RPR with Reflex to Titer or TP-PA Confirmation. | • Detects early primary and treated infection that might be missed with the traditional algorithm.  
• No false negatives as a result of prozone reaction. | • Cannot detect active versus previously treated infection.  
• Cannot be used for monitoring treatment.  
• Highly sensitive; not highly specific. |
| RPR with Reflex to Titer and TP-PA | LAB 23163 | Syphilis screening in special population (high risk patients). Reactive RPR results will reflex to Titer and TP-PA. | • Detects active infection.  
• Use of nontreponemal testing followed by treponemal test for confirmation results in a high positive predictive value. | • Often misses early primary or treated infection.  
• Moderately high rate of false positives for initial nontreponemal tests. |

All samples will be screened for RPR. If non-reactive, additional titers will not be performed. If reactive, titer will be automatically performed. RPR Titer values are reportable to $\geq 1:2048$. 
Syphilis Testing for Providence Patients

**Collect:** Serum separator tube (SST)

**Stability:** Refrigerated (2-8°C) 7 days or Frozen (-20°C) 14 days

**Transport:** Refrigerated (2-8°C)

For more information, please contact Laboratory Client Services at (503) 215-6660.