

# New Syphilis Antibody Assay

## Earlier Detection with Better Sensitivity & Specificity

Ordering Codes: Soft SYPAB/10428 and Epic LAB4831

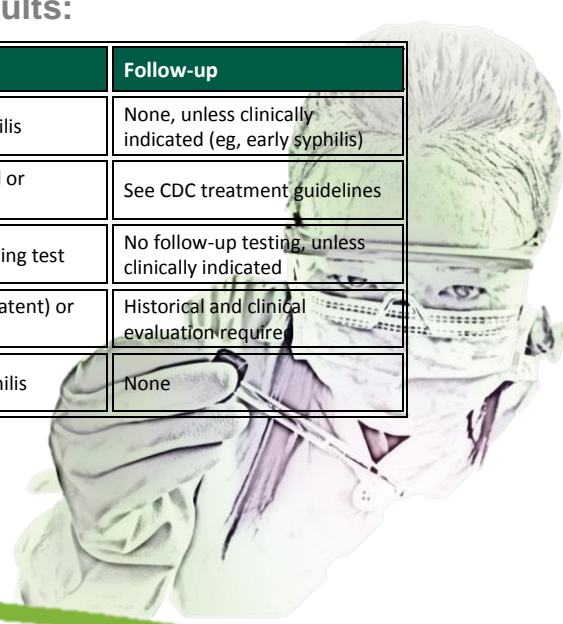
Test Name: **Syphilis Ab w/ Reflex, Serum**

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease that can have serious complications when left untreated. Having syphilis once does not protect the patient from getting it again. Even after the patient has been successfully treated, he/she can still be re-infected. Recently, the CDC recognized the need for a change in the syphilis screening approach in order to respond to the rising prevalence of syphilis. The Association of Public Health Laboratories and the CDC recommend using treponemal as a first line screening test. The CDC issued a report that describes the new syphilis reverse screening algorithm in which a treponemal test is used as a first line test and if positive, reflexes to a nontreponemal test. This new syphilis test improves sensitivity and specificity. This reverse approach using treponemal test is more sensitive than the traditional algorithm using nontreponemal test; detecting cases of secondary, latent, and late syphilis missed by nontreponemal screening assays.

**Effective March 20, 2017**, the syphilis RPR test at Sparrow Laboratories will be replaced by the syphilis reverse screening algorithm test. Refer to the figure and table for interpretation. Any positive Syphilis antibody test is repeated by Nontreponemal test, RPR. If both Antibody assay and RPR are reactive this indicates current or past infection. A titer will be reported.

### Interpretation and follow-up of reverse screening results:

Patient history	Syphilis Ab	RPR result	TP-PA result	Interpretation	Follow-up
Unknown history of syphilis	Nonreactive	N/A	N/A	No serologic evidence of syphilis	None, unless clinically indicated (eg, early syphilis)
Unknown history of syphilis	Reactive	Reactive	N/A	Confirmed Syphilis. Untreated or recently treated syphilis	See CDC treatment guidelines
Unknown history of syphilis	Reactive	Nonreactive	Nonreactive	Probable false-positive screening test	No follow-up testing, unless clinically indicated
Unknown history of syphilis	Reactive	Nonreactive	Reactive	Possible syphilis (eg, early or latent) or previously treated syphilis	Historical and clinical evaluation require
Known history of syphilis	Reactive	Nonreactive	Reactive or N/A	Past, successfully treated syphilis	None



**For questions please call Sparrow Laboratories at 517.364.7800**

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