



AT THE FOREFRONT

UChicago
Medicine

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DATE: August 27, 2019
TO: UCH Medical Staff, Housestaff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics
FROM: Vera Tesic, MD, MS, Asst. Director, Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory
Ana Abeleda, MT, Chief Medical Technologist, Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory
RE: Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) Diagnosis Ab with RPR Reflex Testing

Effective August 28, 2019, the Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory will perform an automated qualitative detection of total (IgG/IgM) antibodies to *Treponema pallidum*. This updated assay will replace the Syphilis Diagnosis IgG Ab (Epic order code SYGPR) assay which is being discontinued by the manufacturer. Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) Diagnosis Ab with RPR reflex (New Epic order code SYPGM) is a multiplex flow immunoassay performed on the BioPlex 2200 system and simultaneously detects (without distinguishing) IgG and IgM antibodies.

Specimen requirements and ordering information:

The order code in EPIC for the new Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) Diagnosis Ab with RPR Reflex is SYPGM. Specimen requirements are unchanged.

Test name	Epic Code	Specimen
Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) Diagnosis Ab with RPR Reflex	SYPGM	6 mL whole blood in red top tube

Test information and turnaround time:

The Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) assay will be the initial test performed for the diagnosis of syphilis. This test is not useful for diagnosis of congenital syphilis. Newborn syphilis testing will continue to be performed using the traditional algorithm (screening with RPR, confirmation with TPPA).

Results of the Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) assay will be reported as Reactive, Equivocal, or Nonreactive. If the result is nonreactive, no further testing will be performed. If the result is reactive or equivocal, a Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) test will be performed, followed by an RPR titer if the RPR is positive. If the RPR is nonreactive, *Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination (TPPA) will be performed to aid in the interpretation of the reactive Syphilis Total (IgG/IgM) and the nonreactive RPR. Testing will be performed seven days a week.

RPR will continue to be orderable for newborn screening (Epic test code: **RPRN**) and as a treatment follow-up test **ONLY** (confirmation of successful therapy) (EPIC test code: **RPRPT**).

If you have any questions, please contact Ana Abeleda, Chief Technologist, Clinical Microbiology/ Immunology Laboratory at 773-702-6618, or Vera Tesic, MD, Asst. Director, Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory at 773-702-2677.