



**WVU**Medicine  
**UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE**  
**LAB ALERT**

RL

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**Syphilis testing change**

Effective January 23, 2018 Berkeley Medical Center will begin running an automated Syphilis TP Antibody immunoassay test and institute a new algorithm for syphilis testing.

The new approach to syphilis is termed 'reverse algorithm' in that RPR is not done as the first test (traditional algorithm) but as the confirmation. A negative syphilis TP antibody means that past and present syphilis infection is unlikely. A positive syphilis TP antibody can indicate a past or present infection. Specimens showing positive for syphilis TP antibody will be reflexed automatically to RPR. If there is a discrepancy between syphilis TP antibody and RPR, T. pallidum particle agglutination (TPPA) will be automatically reflexed.

The interpretation is as follows using CDC guidelines:

<b>Syphilis TP Antibody</b>	<b>RPR</b>	<b>TPPA</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Non-reactive	Not performed	Not performed	Syphilis infection unlikely
Reactive	Reactive	Not performed	Syphilis - recent infection likely
Reactive	Non-reactive	Positive	Syphilis - past or present infection
Reactive	Non-reactive	Negative	Infection unlikely - false positive syphilis TP antibody

<b>Order Code</b>	Lab499
<b>Test Name</b>	Syphilis TP Antibody
<b>Specimen</b>	Gold Top SST
<b>Reference Interval</b>	Non-reactive

\*If you have any questions call BMC at 304-264-1212, option 7.

