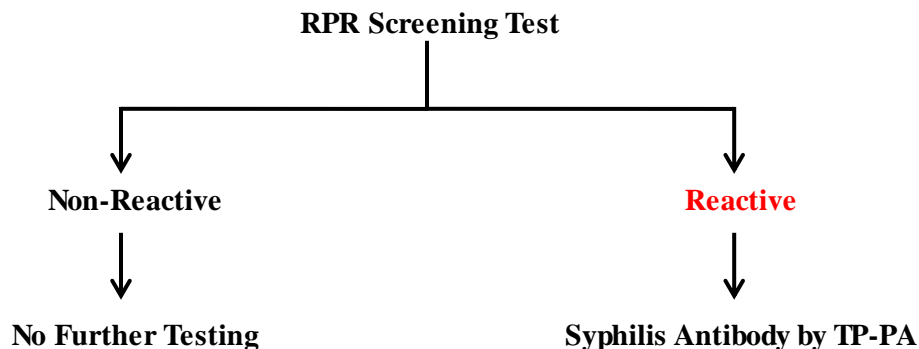


Syphilis Testing Update

Effective Date: January 3, 2017

Commencing January 3, 2017, the Special Testing section of Beaumont Laboratory Royal Oak will perform syphilis screening using the RPR (Rapid Plasma Reagin) method. This will replace serum VDRL testing. Similar to VDRL, RPR is a non-treponemal test that measures anti-lipid antibodies formed by the host in response to lipids released from damaged cells early after infection with *Treponema pallidum*, the causative agent of syphilis. The RPR method is a modified VDRL test in which the cardiolipin-containing antigen suspension is bound to charcoal particles, making the test easier to interpret. The Laboratory has independently verified the two tests are comparable. Below is the modified algorithm for syphilis testing including the use of RPR.



Specimen Collection Requirement (No Change): One gold-top SST tube

For additional information, access the Laboratory Test Directory at:

<http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

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