

Syphilis – VDRL

Test Description	Non-treponemal assay for the detection of reagin in serum. Reactive specimens are tested to an end point titer.
Test Use	Serologic assay to aid in the diagnosis of primary, secondary or tertiary syphilis and for post-treatment evaluation.
Test Department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) slide flocculation test
Availability	Test is performed twice each week
Specimen requirements	1.5 mL serum
Collection Kit/Container	To obtain a collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture technique
Specimen Handling & Transport	Serum specimens may be stored at room temperature (15-25 °C) for up to 3 days or at 2-8 °C for up to 7 days, including transit time. For longer storage of specimens, keep at -20 °C or colder. Transport to laboratory with ice packs.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Specimens not handled, stored, or transported as described above Serum that is hemolyzed or chylous
Requisition Form	Clinical test requisition OL-9B (select Syphilis Screen or Syphilis Confirmation) <i>Specimens will be tested following the Reverse Syphilis Serology Testing Algorithm for either test selection (Syphilis Screen or Syphilis Confirmation)</i>
Required information	Name and address of submitter. Two patient identifiers (ie.name, DOB, Acc.#, MRN), Town of residence (city, state, zip), specimen source/type, date collected, test(s) requested. Please ensure information on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	Non-treponemal tests are not specific for syphilis, nor do they have satisfactory sensitivity in all stages of illness. False positive reactions may occur from antibodies unrelated to syphilis infection. False positive VDRL tests caused by infection with other organisms.
Additional Comments	Specimens submitted for Syphilis testing will be screened by the Syphilis Total Antibody – MFIA. Specimens Reactive on the Syphilis – MFIA screen assay reflex to the VDRL assay. Reactive VDRL specimens are tested to an endpoint titer. Nonreactive VDRL specimens reflex to the <i>Treponema pallidum</i> particle agglutination (TP-PA) assay.

Revision: 1/2/2024