TRAINING UPDATE

Lab Location:	All Sites	**Date Implemented:**	2/20/25
Department:	Processing	**Due Date:**	3/6/25

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE REVISION

Name of procedure:

Syphilis Testing Process

Description of change(s):

This is a new procedure that outlines the syphilis testing process.

WOMC and FWMC:

- When sending syphilis screens (SYPHIL) to SGMC for testing, please send all of the serum. Do not send an aliquot. If the test is positive, SGMC will reflex additional testing to Chantilly and they will need the specimen.
- XRPRP orders on babies will be sent directly to Chantilly per the non-micro FES process.
- Notify SGMC if you see an XRPRP on an adult or an XTPPA specimen on the send out pending for more than 8 hours. This will ensure the specimen is sent out in a timely manner.

SGMC:

- If a syphilis screen is positive, Sunquest will reflex the XRPRP and XTPPA orders.
- A label will print in micro to alert technical staff to pull the tube and return it to processing.
- Processing will send out using the non-micro FES process.
- **Each time send outs are done, SGMC processing staff will pull a syphilis pending lot to verify that specimens from all sites are included in the batch.**
    - ROB
    - Interface: 601
    - Option: 6 Reports
    - Option: 1 Pending List
    - Hospital ID: . (type a period to include all sites)
    - Event types: All
    - Department, worksheet, or lab locations: D
    - Department(s): RLT
    - Cutoff Collect Date: Enter
    - Cutoff Collect Time: Enter
    - Include unreceived specimens: N
    - Accept, Modify, Reject: A
    - Printer: 0 (to display on screen)

AHC.S 1015 Syphilis Testing Process

Copy of version 1.0 (approved and current)

Last Approval or Periodic Review Completed	2/14/2025
Next Periodic Review Needed On or Before	2/14/2027
Effective Date	2/14/2025

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Printed By	Stephanie Codina
Organization	Adventist HealthCare

Approval and Periodic Review Signatures

Type	Description	Date	Version	Performed By	Notes
Approval	Lab Director	2/14/2025	1.0	Nicolas Cacciabeve MD Nicolas Cacciabeve	
Approval	Field Ops approval	2/14/2025	1.0	Stephanie Codina	

Version History

Version	Status	Type	Date Added	Date Effective	Date Retired
1.0	Approved and Current	Initial version	2/14/2025	2/14/2025	Indefinite

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Non-Technical SOP

Title	**Syphilis Testing Process**	
Prepared by	Stephanie Codina	Date: 2/4/25
Owner	Stephanie Codina	Date: 2/4/25

Laboratory Approval		
Print Name and Title	**Signature**	**Date**
Refer to the electronic signature page for approval and approval dates.		
Local Issue Date:	Local Effective Date:	

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1. PURPOSE

To define the process for handling specimens submitted for syphilis antibody screening and the subsequent reflex testing.

2. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all syphilis antibody with reflex, RPR, and or T. pallidum particle agglutination tests ordered or referred for testing.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

All processing staff members must adhere to this procedure when processing syphilis specimens.

4. DEFINITIONS

None

5. PROCEDURE

Step	Action
1	The syphilis antibody with reflex test (SYPHIL) may be ordered at any location. Specimens submitted from FWMC, GEC, and WOMC will be referred to SGMC for testing using the tracking process. Please include the entire tube/specimen when referring specimens to SGMC for SYPHIL testing to allow sufficient specimen for reflex testing, if applicable.
2	SGMC will perform the SYPHIL screening test on the specimen. If the SYPHIL test is reactive, Sunquest will automatically reflex the following confirmatory tests which are tested in Chantilly. A. XRPRP = Rapid Plasma Reagin B. XTPPA = Treponema pallidum particle agglutination A label will print in the SGMC microbiology department to alert technical staff that reflex testing was automatically generated. If the label prints, technical staff must pull the specimen and bring it to processing for send out testing.
3	FWMC, GEC, and WOMC staff will notify SGMC processing if they identify any XRPRP or XTPPA tests that have been pending for more than 8 hours. The tests will be referred to Chantilly by SGMC processing. Exception: XRPRP tests ordered on neonates will be referred to Chantilly by the processing department at the ordering site. The RPR only will be ordered and tested on babies born to mothers with positive syphilis screening tests.

SGMC Processing Steps

Step	Action
1	SGMC Processing Staff will pull a pending log of syphilis test orders for all sites when doing send outs. Syphilis reflex testing for all sites will be sent to Chantilly from SGMC. A. Access Sunquest function **ROB** B. Interface number: **601** C. Select option: **6** (Reports) D. Select option: **1** (Pending List) E. Hospital ID: **.** (Press the period "." key to obtain all HIDs) F. Patient event types: **Enter** to accept the default of all G. Department, Worksheet, Lab Location, or All: **D** (Department) H. Department(s): **RLT** I. Cutoff Collect Date: **Enter**

	J. Cutoff Collect Time: **Enter** K. Include Unreceived Specimen: **N** L. Accept (A), Modify (M), or Reject (R): **A** M. Printer: **Enter printer number or 0 to display on screen**

Step	Action
2	SGMC processing staff will ensure all pending XRPRP and XTPPA specimens are referred to Chantilly for testing. Exception: XRPRP tests ordered on neonates will be referred to Chantilly by the processing department at the ordering site. The RPR only will be ordered and tested on babies born to mothers with positive syphilis screening tests.
3	SGMC staff will build a manual ROB batch per procedure, "Specimen Processing Sendouts."
4	SGMC staff will FES the specimens per procedure, "FES of Non-Micro Specimens."

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

SOP: Tracking Specimens Between AHC Lab Sites
SOP: Specimen Processing Sendouts
SOP: FES of Non-Micro Specimens

7. REFERENCES

NA

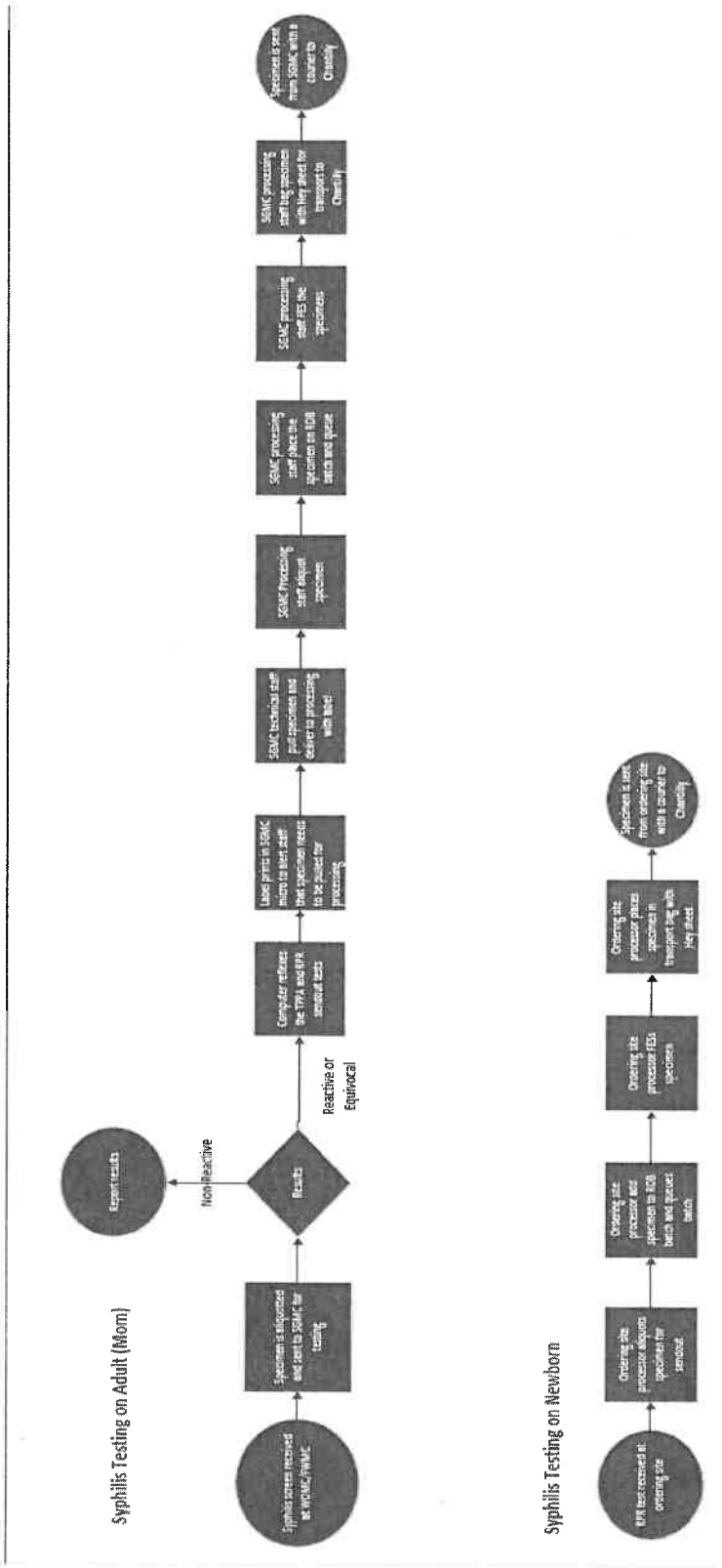
8. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Reason for Revision	Revised By	Approved By

9. ADDENDA AND APPENDICES

Appendix A: Syphilis Testing Process Map
Appendix B: Syphilis Testing Reverse Algorithm

Appendix A: Syphilis Testing Process Map



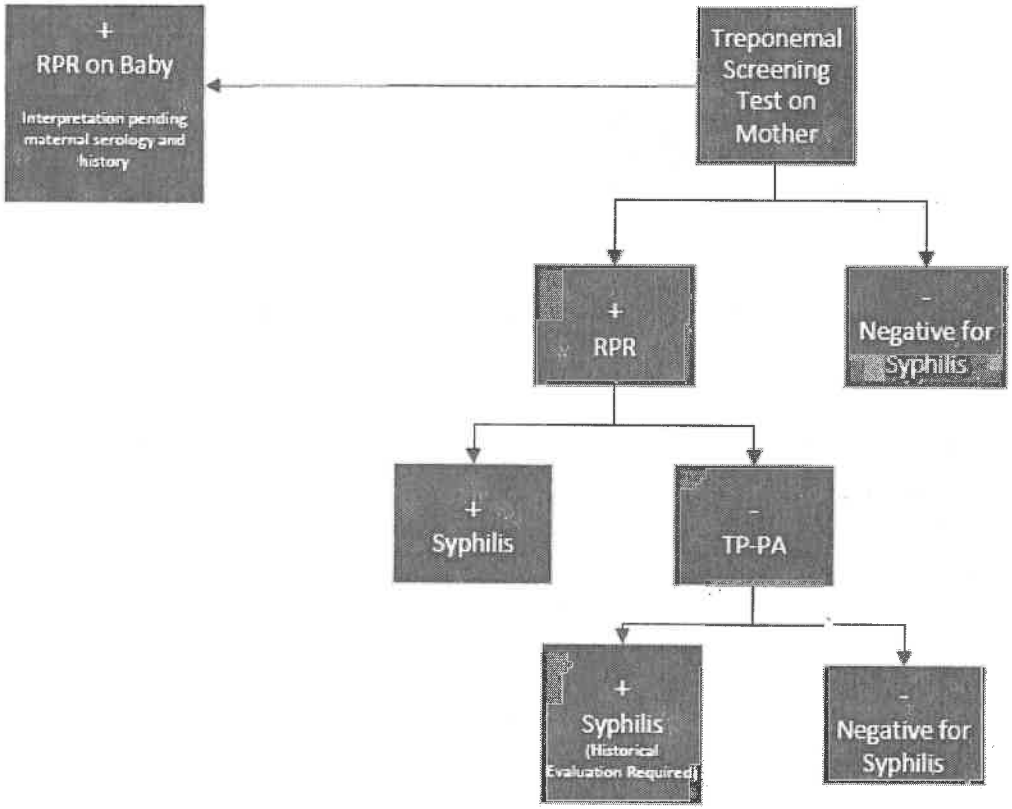
Appendix B: Syphilis Testing Reverse Algorithm

Syphilis Reverse Algorithm

The "reverse syphilis test algorithm" starts with a chemiluminescent assay to measure specific antibodies to *Treponema pallidum*. The advantages are that *T. pallidum* antibodies (TPA) are 1) specific to syphilis, 2) are more sensitive than VDRL or RPR for detecting both primary and late syphilis, 3) can be tested using automated instruments, and 4) can provide more rapid results.

Samples reactive by the TPA screen are reflexively tested by RPR.
If the RPR is positive, an RPR titer is performed.
If the RPR is negative, the sample is tested by a second *T. pallidum* specific test, the *Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination test (TP-PA), to confirm the initial TPA screen.
DO NOT DISCHARGE UNTIL RESULTS ARE RETURNED FOR BOTH MOM AND BABY.

Specimen Requirements:
- Mom = Minimum of 4mL of blood collected in a red top tube (no gel)
- Baby = Minimum of 2mL of blood collected in a red top tube (no gel)



[1] Interpretation and recommended follow-up testing with the reverse sequence screening algorithm for syphilis

CASE	RESULT OF TREPONEMAL SCREENING TEST[1]	RESULT OF NON-TREPONEMAL TEST (E.G., RPR)	RESULT OF SECOND TREPONEMAL TEST (E.G., TP-PA)	INTERPRETATION
1	Negative	N/A	N/A	Negative for syphilis. No further testing required, unless clinically indicated.
2	Positive	Negative	Positive	Possible past, successfully treated syphilis. Thorough review of history required to rule-out early or latent syphilis.
3	Positive	Positive	N/A	Likely untreated or recently treated syphilis. Follow CDC treatment guidelines.*
4	Positive	Negative	Negative	Likely false-positive screening test. No further testing required, unless clinically indicated.

N/A, not applicable
1. CIA, chemiluminescence immunoassay; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; MFI, multiplex flow immunoassay