

*****IMPORTANT LAB UPDATE*****

To: HealthEast Medical Laboratory Providers

From: Dr. Joseph Leverone, M.D., Medical Director 232-3573
Craig Rousar, HealthEast Core Laboratory Manager 232-3002

Date: March 1, 2018

Subject: Updates to the HealthEast Syphilis Testing Cascade

HealthEast Laboratories is pleased to announce we will be updating the Syphilis testing cascade and adopt a reverse sequence Syphilis Serology testing Algorithm recommended by the US Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6005a1.htm). The CDC states that presumptive diagnosis requires the use of two serologic tests: a treponemal assay and a non-treponemal assay.

Starting 3/6/2018, the HealthEast Syphilis Screen Cascade (LAB494) should be the initial order to evaluate patients for syphilis status. The test requires 2 ml of plain red top serum to allow for all possible cascade tests to be performed.

The first test done on the Syphilis Screen Cascade will be the Treponema Antibody (Syphilis), a chemiluminescent immunoassay (CLIA) performed on the Diasorin Liaison XL analyzer at St. Joseph's Hospital.

If the result of the Treponema Antibody (Syphilis) test is **Positive** or **Equivocal**, a RPR Screen with Reflex (Rapid Plasma Reagin-a non-treponemal test) will reflex for an additional charge, and be performed at HE St. Joseph's Laboratory.

If the result of the RPR Screen is **Reactive**, a RPR Titer (LAB3143) is performed. If the result of the RPR Screen is **Non-reactive**, a Treponema Pallidum Antibody by TP-PA is performed.

For more information on the significance of testing from the Syphilis Screen Cascade, please refer to the attached HealthEast Medical Laboratory Syphilis Serology testing Algorithm-March 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to provide you with high-quality, reliable, laboratory test results. Input from the clinical providers we serve is a valuable resource as HealthEast Medical Laboratory strives to continually improve our services.

Please contact Dr. Joseph Leverone at 651-232-3573 or Craig Rousar at 651-232-3002 with questions or for more information.

A copy of this memo and the algorithm will be posted on the Laboratory page in the Clinical Services tab on the Infonet. Look for the Chemistry section under resources.