

Syphilis Testing:

Screening Cascade vs. RPR Titer Only

To Diagnose Syphilis:

- Order Screening Cascade
 - » RPR with Reflex to Titer and Treponemal Confirmation or Treponemal Test with Reflex to RPR and Titer
 - » Sequence of tests depends on lab
 - » Initial positive result needs to be confirmed by second test

To Monitor Syphilis Antibodies:

- Order RPR with Reflex to Titer
 - » Only order if patient has a known history of syphilis and documentation of past positive treponemal test is available



Syphilis Testing Tips for Labs and Providers



Laboratory tips

- If only RPR is ordered, check with provider to see if there is documentation of previous positive treponemal test
- If no positive treponemal test on record, suggest syphilis screening cascade: screening with reflex to confirmatory test

Provider tips

- For ED/urgent care/OB patients, syphilis screening cascade should be the default order
- If patient reports syphilis history, contact your local health department to review previous RPR titers and treatment

Contact the Oregon Health Authority STD Prevention Nurse
Consultant at 971.673.1071 with syphilis testing questions

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