

Specimen Submission Requirements for the Syphilis Examination of Blood

- Methodology:** RPR (qualitative only), VDRL (qualitative and quantitative), TP-PA (qualitative only)
- Performed:** The Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division will accept whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or serum specimens from Monday through Friday by 3:30 p.m.
- Turn-Around-Time:** 6 days
- Specimen Collection:** One 6 –7 mL tube of whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or a minimum of 1 mL of serum.
- Specimen Transport:** Specimens are to be delivered to the Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division at a transport temperature of 2 – 8° C.
- Whole blood and serum specimens should be stored at 2–8° C and transported to the State Laboratory Division (SLD) at the recommended transport temperature within five (5) days from the collection date.
 - For referrals for the Trepsure test, whole blood must be spun down to separate blood cells from sera within 48 hours of draw so as not to allow hemolysis to interfere in the test.
 - Serum specimens may also be frozen at -20°C and shipped to the laboratory on dry ice.
- Requisition Form:** Syphilis Examination of Blood requisition form (Form lab 15/84). This state requisition form is a triplicate form. Please do not tear and remove any part of the form. At a minimum, patient identifier, name and address of submitter, date of collection, and purpose for which specimen was taken (prenatal, diagnostic, control of treatment, reference or confirmation) must be completed on the form. If submitter requests that a treponemal confirmatory test be done, please write-in this request (“please do treponemal test”) on the middle right portion of the form.
- Normal Value:** RPR (Qualitative): Non-reactive
VDRL (Qualitative and Quantitative): Non-reactive
TP-PA (Qualitative): Non-Reactive
- Result Notification:** Laboratory reports will be forwarded to both the submitter and the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic.

Remarks:

Please be sure that completed requisition forms are legible. Requisition forms and specimen tubes are not to be placed in the same chamber of the specimen transport container or bag.

All specimens received for the syphilis examination of blood will be tested with the RPR (qualitative) test. Specimens that are found to be “reactive” on the RPR will be further tested with the VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) and the TP-PA test. If the submitter requests a treponemal test, the RPR test will first be performed, then the VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) and the TP-PA test will be performed.

If a “control of treatment” evaluation is requested, please note this on the form. Only the RPR (qualitative) and VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) will be performed as the treponemal test will be redundantly positive and would be a waste of resources available.

Only screened positive specimens are to be forwarded to the state laboratory. Please do not forward unscreened sera to the lab. The only exception would be an overriding clinical reason for doctors and laboratories to send negative serum to the state lab.

Unacceptable Conditions:

- a. Illegible or incomplete requisition forms.
- b. Unlabeled tubes.
- c. Chylous specimens (unable to read newsprint through specimen tube).
- d. Hemolyzed specimens (unable to read newsprint through specimen tube).
- e. Leaking blood or serum specimens.
- f. Specimen quantity not sufficient (<1 mL of serum) to perform test.
- g. Whole blood in collection tube containing an anticoagulant.
- h. Grossly contamination with microorganisms.
- i. Specimens warmer than the required transport temperature.
- j. Specimens other than whole blood (without anticoagulant) or serum.

Test Location:


State Laboratories Division
Medical Microbiology Branch
Bacterial Serology Unit
2725 Waimano Home Rd., 2nd floor
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
Phone: (808) 453-6706

Contact: Norman O'Connor, Supervisor, Bacteriology and Parasitology
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(808) 453-6706

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(808) 453-6446

Dayna Ornellas, Chief, Medical Microbiology Branch
(808) 453-6700

Validated By:




Norman O'Connor,
Supervisor, Bacteriology and Parasitology Section



Date

Reviewed By:




Dayna Ornellas, M.S.
Chief, Medical Microbiology Branch

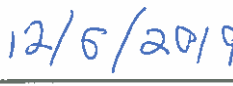


Date

Approved By:



Edward P. Desmond, Ph.D.
Administrator, State Laboratories Division



Date