

## Specimen Submission Requirements for the Syphilis Examination of Blood

<b>Methodology:</b>	RPR (qualitative and quantitative) TP-PA (Treponema pallidum particle agglutination) test
<b>Performed:</b>	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. from DOH Programs  For non-DOH clinicians and laboratories, MMB will <b>ONLY</b> accept specimens that have been screened and tested positive. Submission of negative or unscreened specimens requires MMB approval.
<b>Turn-Around-Time:</b>	6 days
<b>Specimen Collection:</b>	One 6 –7 mL tube of whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or a minimum of 1 mL of serum.
<b>Specimen Transport:</b>	Specimens are to be delivered to the Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division (SLD) at a transport temperature of 2 – 8° C. Whole blood specimens should be stored at 2 – 8° C and transported to SLD at the recommended transport temperature within five (5) days of 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 with the test. Serum specimens may be frozen at -20° C and submitted to the laboratory on dry ice.
<b>Requisition Form:</b>	<b>Syphilis Examination of Blood form or Lab Requisition 81.3</b>  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, notation will be written on the submission form.
<b>Normal Value:</b>	<b>RPR (Qualitative/Quantitative):</b> Non-reactive  <b>TP-PA:</b> Non-reactive

**Result Notification:** Results will be reported in Starlims, submitters will access through Dashboard.

**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 test will be further tested and titered to endpoint (RPR quantitative), and the TP-PA confirmatory test will be performed. If “control of treatment” is indicated on the submission form, only the RPR (qualitative and quantitative) tests will be performed.**

**Only screened positive specimens are to be forwarded to the state laboratory. An exception can be made for 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 contaminated 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., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782  
Phone: (808) 453-6706

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Prepared by:



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JAN 25 2023  
Date

Reviewed By:



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

JAN 25 2023  
Date

Approved By:



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Edward P. Desmond, Ph.D., D (ABMM)  
State Laboratories Division Administrator

JAN 26 2023  
Date