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March, 2021

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## Syphilis Confirmation Change

Effective March 29, 2021, the Methodist Pathology Center has updated the Syphilis Confirmation Testing to the CDC-recommended confirmatory test for syphilis.

**Changes:** Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed (FTA-ABS) was previously utilized by the Methodist laboratory as the reflexive confirmatory treponemal test for discordant syphilis screening results (syphilis total antibody positive, RPR negative). Because the CDC no longer recommends FTA-ABS as a confirmatory test for discordant screening results, *Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination (TP-PA) will now be utilized as the primary confirmatory test. This change will not require anything different on the part of the ordering provider. Confirmatory testing occurs reflexively in cases where the syphilis total antibody is positive and RPR is negative.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Karre, Director of Microbiology, at 402-354-7842 or LaNett Whisler, Microbiology Service Leader at 4-4586.

**References:**

Discordant Results from Reverse Sequence Syphilis Screening --- Five Laboratories, United States, 2006—2010 MMWR. February 11, 2011 / 60(05);133-137