



# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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- Effective March 1, 2011, the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories changed the methodology it uses to test for syphilis. The BCL will begin using a treponemal enzyme immunoassay test (EIA) as the first test in the algorithm. Positive specimens will be followed by a nontreponemal test, the VDRL quantitative test, to provide information for disease staging and evaluation of therapy. The current TP-PA will remain available as a follow-up test if necessary.
- No changes in collection practices are required. Please continue to draw 3.5-4.0 ml of whole blood in a separator tube and submit to the BCL as usual.

## New Syphilis Screening Algorithm

