

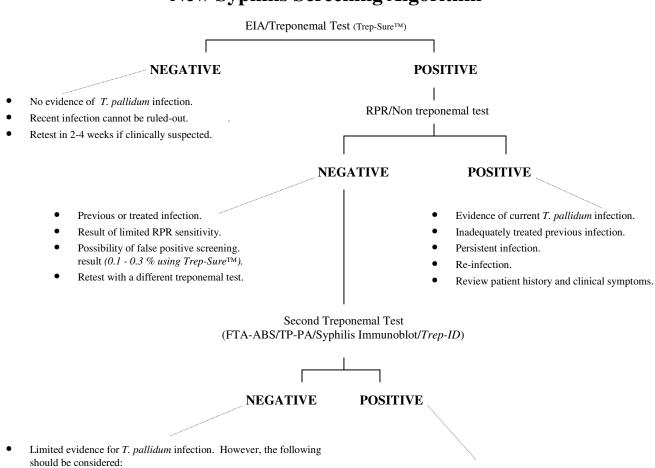
## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, Sharon P. Massingale, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB) Director

March 4, 2011 Volume II Issue 1

- 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**



- Possible previous infection.
- Possibility of false positive screening result.
  (0.1 0.3% using Trep-Sure<sup>TM</sup>).
- Retest in 2-4 weeks if clinically suspected.
- Result of limited test sensitivity.

- Evidence of T. pallidum infection
- Possibility of previous infection.
- Possible cross-reactivity.
- Consider previously treated, late latent, or late syphilis.
- Review patient history and clinical symptoms.