

Department of State Health Services/South Texas Laboratory
LABORATORY TEST/SEROLOGY

Test Name:	SYPHILIS RPR RPR - RAPID PLASMA REAGIN
Patient Preparation:	No special preparation of the patient is required prior to specimen collection. Proper Specimen Labeling is required (e.g. Name of patient, Date of Birth, Time and Date of collection and Initials of collector).
Specimen Requirements:	Serum is the specimen of choice for this test; however EDTA plasma may be used when serum cannot be obtained. Plasma must be tested within 48 hours. Specimens containing erythrocytes or other visible matter should be centrifuged prior to testing to prevent interference with test results.
Special Timing for Collection:	Serum may remain on the red blood cells/clot if testing will be performed within 2 hours from the time of collection. Otherwise, serum must be separated from the red blood cells within 2 hours from the time of collection. For whole blood specimens collected in a red top blood collection tube, centrifuge the specimen within 2 hours from the time of collection to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot). Transfer the serum specimen to a serum transport tube using a pipette (unless using a SST). For whole blood specimens collected with a SST blood collection tube, centrifuge the specimen within 2 hours from the time of collection to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot). Serum does not need to be transferred to a serum transport tube.
Preservative or Anticoagulant:	None required.
Transportation Requirements/Storage:	Serum samples should be tested within five (5) days of collection. Samples that require longer than 5 days storage must be removed from the red cells and stored at -20°C or below until testing. Never freeze whole blood. Serum should be kept cold until the serum specimen can be shipped overnight delivery. Serum specimens should be packaged with sufficient cold packs to ensure the serum specimen arrives cold at South Texas Laboratory. Do Not ship cold specimens to STL on Friday or the day before an observed federal holiday.
Interfering Substances/Precautions:	Excessive hemolysis, severe lipemia or gross contamination of the specimen; handle as if capable of transmitting disease.
Required Requisition:	F40-B Specimen Submission Form

LABORATORY TEST/SEROLOGY

Test Name:	SYPHILIS TP-PA (Particle Agglutination Test for Treponema Pallidum)
Patient Preparation:	No special preparation of the patient is required prior to specimen collection. Proper Specimen Labeling is required (e.g. Name of patient, Date of Birth, Time and Date of collection and Initials of collector).
Specimen Requirements:	Serum is the specimen of choice for this test; however EDTA plasma may be used when serum cannot be obtained. Plasma must be tested within 48 hours. Specimens containing erythrocytes or other visible matter should be centrifuged prior to testing to prevent interference with test results.
Special Timing for Collection:	Serum may remain on the red blood cells/clot if testing will be performed within 2 hours from the time of collection. Otherwise, serum must be separated from the red blood cells within 2 hours from the time of collection. For whole blood specimens collected in a red top blood collection tube, centrifuge the specimen within 2 hours from the time of collection to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot). Transfer the serum specimen to a serum transport tube using a pipette (unless using a SST). For whole blood specimens collected with a SST blood collection tube, centrifuge the specimen within 2 hours from the time of collection to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot). Serum does not need to be transferred to a serum transport tube.
Preservative or Anticoagulant:	None required
Transportation Requirements/Storage:	Serum samples should be tested within five (5) days of collection. Samples that require longer than 5 days storage must be removed from the red cells and stored at -20°C or below until testing. Never freeze whole blood. Serum should be kept cold until the serum specimen can be shipped overnight delivery. Serum specimens should be packaged with sufficient cold packs to ensure the serum specimen arrives cold at South Texas Laboratory. Do Not ship cold specimens to STL on Friday or the day before an observed federal holiday.
Interfering Substances/Precautions:	Excessive hemolysis, lipemic serum or gross contamination of the specimen. Handle as if capable of transmitting disease.
Required Requisition:	F40-B Specimen Submission Form