

Syphilis IgG and IgM with Reflex RPR, Serum #84425

EXPLANATION: The determination of exposure history to syphilis by serologic testing for IgG-class antibodies to *Treponema pallidum* is very useful information, particularly for women of child-bearing ages. However, the clinical utility of IgM testing for the laboratory assessment of primary syphilis infection in adults is still largely undefined.

Furthermore, it remains undefined whether IgM testing enhances the laboratory diagnosis of syphilis, especially since most patients present in the secondary stage of disease when RPR and IgG-class antibodies are present.

Given the overall low prevalence of syphilis in the United States, routine serologic testing for IgM-class antibodies to this organism may yield false-positive results, which can negatively impact patient care. False-positive results are especially problematic when syphilis IgM testing is included in the routine screening of asymptomatic patients, including pregnant women and those undergoing pre-transplant screening.

Due to the questionable clinical utility of syphilis IgM testing and the potential negative impact of a false-positive result, Mayo Medical Laboratories **will no longer test or forward specimens from patients >12 months of age for syphilis IgM-class antibodies**. For the serologic diagnosis of syphilis in patients >12 months of age, it is **recommended to order MML unit code #81814 (Syphilis IgG Ab w/ Reflex RPR, S)**.

To assist in the diagnosis of congenital syphilis, a serum sample from patients <12 months of age may be submitted for serologic testing (Misc. Referral #90522: Focus Diagnostics, unit code #20493 *Treponema pallidum* IgG and IgM Antibody panel, IFA).

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE TEST: # 81814 Syphilis IgG Antibody with Reflex RPR, Serum

USEFUL FOR: An aid in the diagnosis of active *Treponema pallidum* infection. Routine prenatal screening.

Reflex Tests:

Unit Code	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
84459	Rapid Plasma Reagin Test, S	No	No

Testing Algorithm:

If syphilis IgG is positive, #84459 Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) Test, Serum will be performed at an additional charge.

METHOD: 81814: Multiplex Flow Immunoassay
84459: Flocculation

REFERENCE VALUES: Negative

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS: Draw blood in a plain, red-top tube(s) or a serum gel tube(s). Spin down and send 0.75 mL of serum refrigerated on a screw-capped plastic vial.

LIST FEE: \$60.00

The following test(s) may be added per the testing algorithm:
\$110.40 for #84459 Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) Test, Serum

CPT CODE: 86780-Syphilis antibody, IgG
86592-RPR (if appropriate)

ANALYTIC TIME: 1 day

DAY(S) SET-UP: Monday through Saturday

QUESTIONS: Contact your Mayo Medical Laboratories' Regional Manager
Kim J. Baker, Mayo Medical Laboratories' Technologist Support
Telephone: 800-533-1710