Syphilis Screen (VDRL)

Test Description	Non-treponemal assay for the detection of reagin in serum. Reactive results are titered to end point and confirmed with a treponemal-specific test
Test Use	Serologic screen to aid in the diagnosis of primary, secondary or tertiary syphilis and for post-treatment evaluation.
Test Department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	VDRL (Venereal Disease Research Laboratory) slide flocculation test
Availability	Daily, Monday-Friday
Specimen requirements	1-2 mL serum
Collection Kit/Container	To obtain a collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture technique
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store in refrigerator at 2-8° C. Specimens must be received within 5 days of collection. Transport to laboratory with ice pack coolant (preferred) or at ambient temperature. Avoid temperature extremes.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Serum that is hemolyzed or chylous
Requisition Form	Clinical test requisition (select **Syphilis Screen (VDRL))**
Required information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, date of birth, town of residence (city, state, zip) Specimen type or source of collection, date of collection, test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	Non-treponemal tests are not specific for syphilis, nor do they have satisfactory sensitivity in all stages of illness. False positive reactions may occur from antibodies unrelated to syphilis infection. False positive VDRL tests caused by infection with other organisms or by other conditions can be identified by the accompanying nonreactive treponemal test result.
Additional Comments	Reactive VDRL screen results are titered to endpoint and confirmed with a treponemal-specific assay (*Treponema pallidum* Particle Agglutination Assay).

Revision: 8/25/15