






**MEMORANDUM #1**

TO: UNCHCS Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM:  John Schmitz, PhD, Director, Clinical Immunology Laboratory  
 Eric Weimer, PhD, Associate Director, Clinical Immunology Laboratory  
 Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

**SUBJECT: Ordering Serologic Testing for Syphilis**

DATE: January 14, 2020

---

Effective January 25, 2020, in an effort to simplify and clarify test orders, UNC Health Care System, will be changing to a single ordering procedure for serologic testing for syphilis. For diagnosis, providers should order “Syphilis Screen LAB494”. This test replaces the existing tests “RPR LAB494”, and “Treponemal Screen LAB1197”. Depending upon your facility’s current practice, samples will be tested with either the traditional algorithm (RPR +/- titer followed by TP-PA confirmation of reactive samples) or the reverse algorithm (Treponemal antibody followed by RPR +/- titer and TP-PA resolution of discordant samples).

For patients undergoing therapy for syphilis, providers should order the new test: “RPR, Therapy Monitoring LAB494T”. Samples will be routed directly to McLendon Clinical Laboratories Immunology Laboratory where ran RPR will be performed (with titer if reactive). This test is not intended for diagnostic use and reactive samples will not be reflexed to a confirmation Treponemal test.

Please contact the Clinical Immunology Laboratory at 984-974-1815 with any questions or concerns.