

Syphilis Testing Algorithms

Legacy Laboratory Services offers several testing options for diagnosing and monitoring syphilis. The following figures summarize the five testing algorithms.

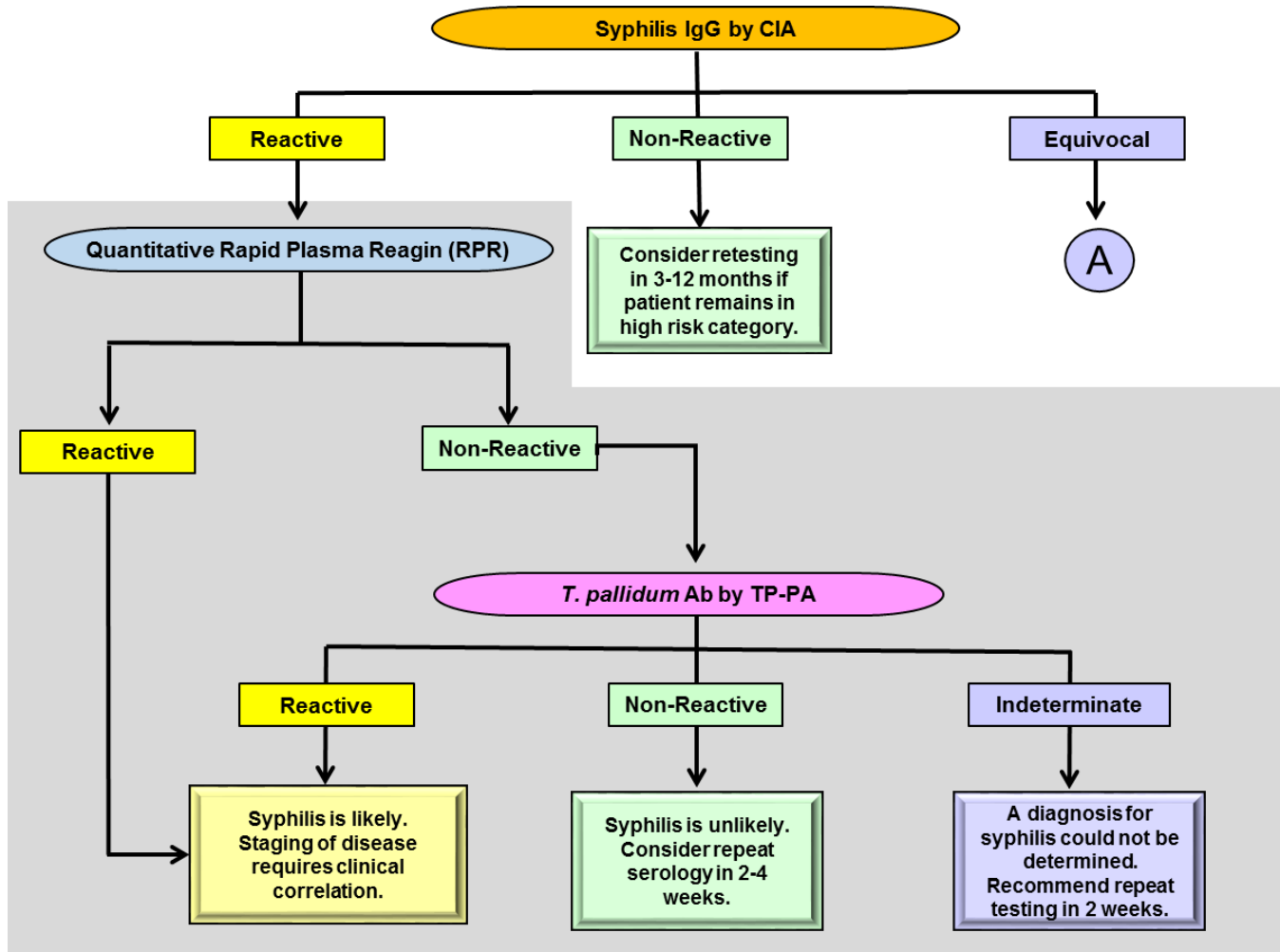


Figure 1.A: Syphilis Antibody Screen with Reflex: **Scenario 1:** For most clients, order the **SYPH AB RFLX** to screen patients greater than or equal to 30 days old, including pregnant females. Equivocal CIA results will follow a separate algorithm (Figure 1B.). **Scenario 2:** If another laboratory already screened their patients using an immunoassay, then a Syphilis Confirmation with Reflex (**SYPH CONF RFLX**) is appropriate. This test is used to confirm initial reactive/positive testing used in the “Reverse” syphilis screen. The interpretive statement is valid only for specimens having previously been screened and found to be reactive by a Treponemal antibody immunoassay screen. **Scenario 3:** Syphilis Confirmation using TP-PA only (**SYPH TPPA**) is also available to laboratories that have already screened patients. Interpretive statement states: (1) In the “Traditional” algorithm, TP-PA is recommended to confirm reactive non-Treponemal tests (i.e., RPR). (2) In the “Reverse” algorithm, TP-PA is recommended to confirm non-reactive non-Treponemal tests (i.e. RPR), that were originally screened reactive by immunoassay.

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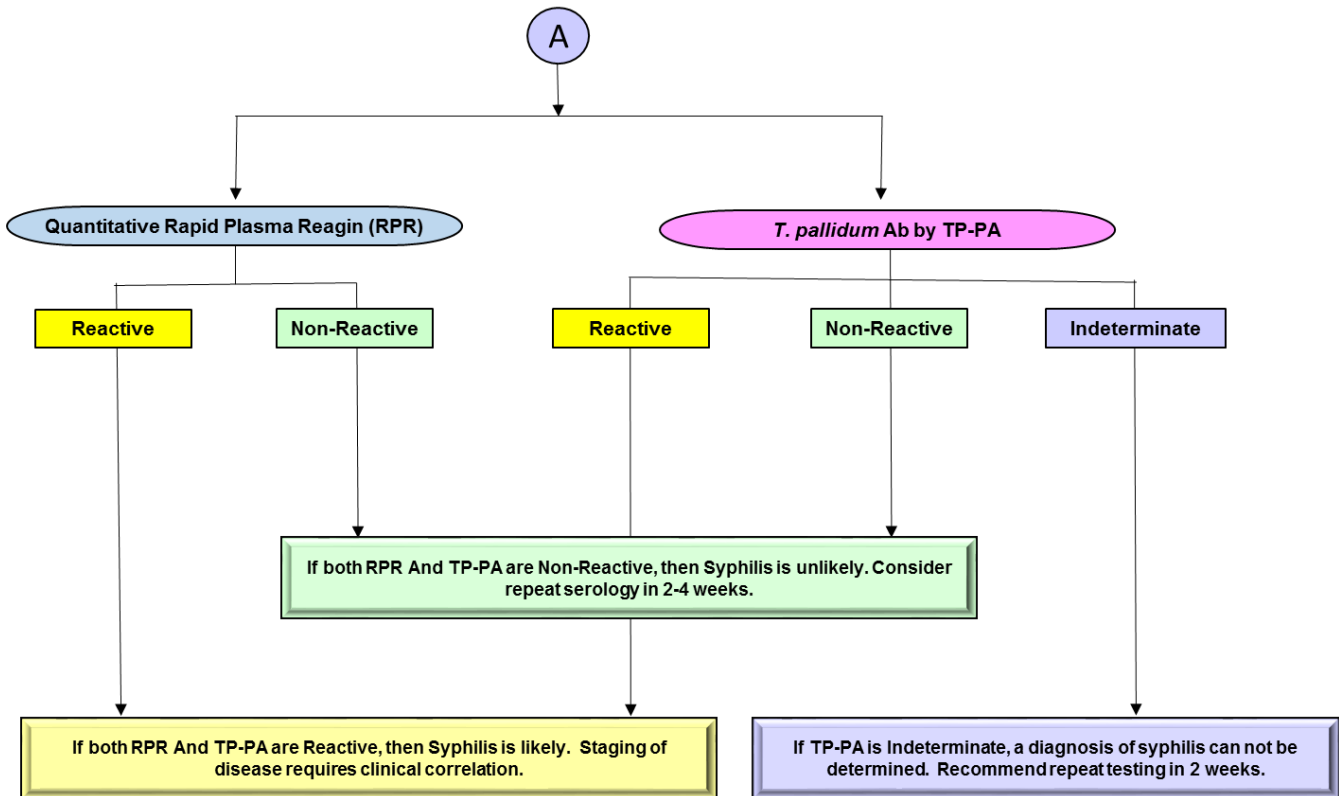


Figure 1.B: Equivocal Results Using the Syphilis Antibody Screen with Reflex: A CIA Equivocal result requires both the RPR and TP-PA to be performed by the Serology department. If both are reactive, syphilis is likely. If both are non-reactive, then syphilis is unlikely. If TP-PA is Indeterminate, then a diagnosis cannot be determined. If the RPR is reactive and the TP-PA is non-reactive (or vice-versa), then syphilis is possible but cannot be confirmed. Repeat testing is recommended in two weeks.

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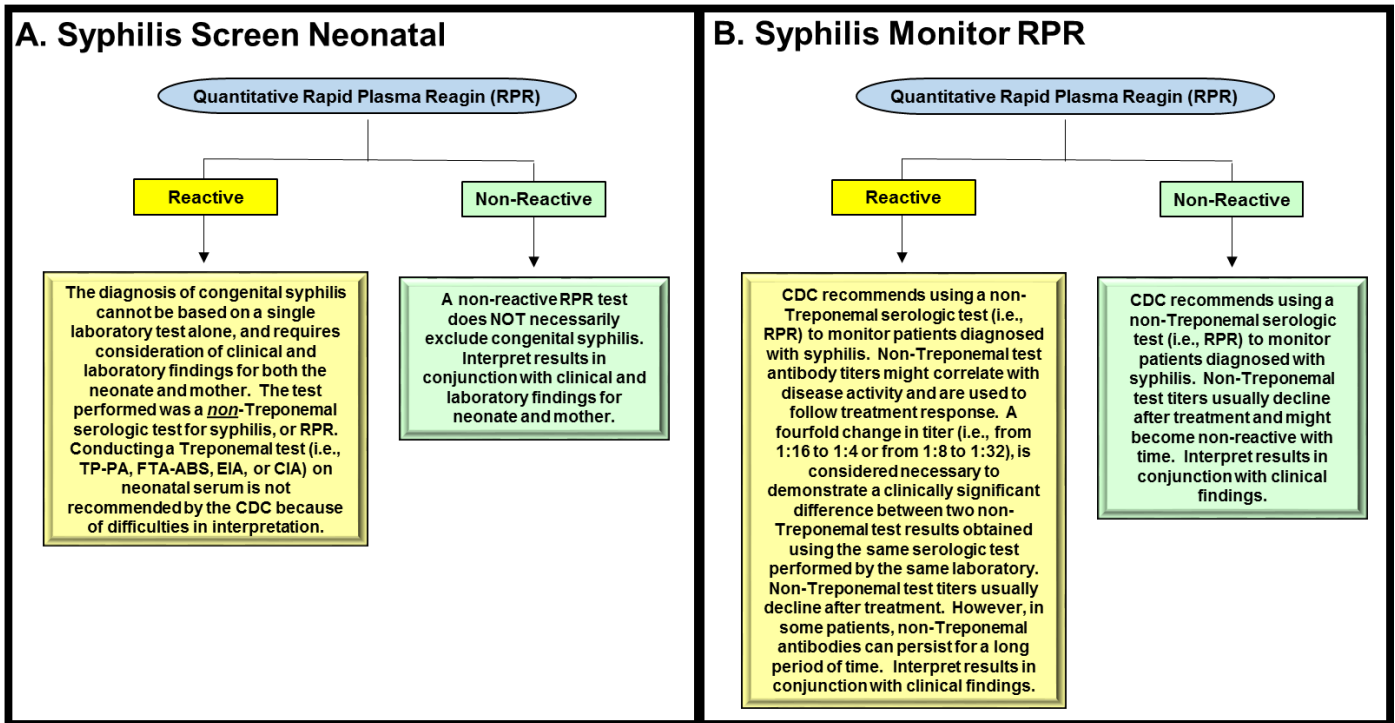


Figure 2: Syphilis Screen Neonatal (SYPH NEO) and Syphilis Monitor RPR (SYPH MON): Two syphilis orderables contain only RPR, but their interpretive statements differ. **A.)** Order Syphilis Screen Neonatal (SYPH NEO) to screen patients less than 30 days old. **B.)** Order Syphilis Monitor RPR (SYPH MON) to monitor patients previously diagnosed with syphilis.