

# FACT SHEET

## Syphilis Serology

### Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR, qualitative) 5035

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs a qualitative and semiquantitative nontreponemal flocculation test for the detection of reagin antibodies in human serum and plasma as a screening test in syphilis serology. Reactive test samples will automatically reflex to further confirmation testing.

Specimens accepted for testing:

Serum or EDTA Plasma sample removed from the red cells, free of hemolysis, bacterial contamination, or lipemia. Specimens may be stored up to 5 days at refrigerated temperature 2-8C before processing. If the RPR is reactive, a quantitative titer will automatically be performed. The following test is automatically added to the order.

### RPR, quantitative 5040

The RPR titer allows for the correction interpretation of the syphilis test and the automatic addition of the confirmatory test.

**Treponemal Passive Particle Agglutination Test (TPPA) 5065** is ordered automatically with a positive RPR qualitative test.

### Interpretation

To determine if an active syphilis infection is occurring a patient's syphilis serology status requires consideration of the RPR, the RPR titer and the TPPA at the same time. The following is a general guide to interpretation:

Condition	Signs & Symptoms	RPR	RPR titer	TPPA
Syphilis infection	Primary or secondary syphilis signs (chancre or rash)	Reactive	RPR 1:2- 1:256 range, and higher	Reactive
Past, treated syphilis	No signs or symptoms	Reactive or non-reactive	RPR 1:1, 1:2 occasionally higher	Reactive
Biologic false positive	Autoimmune disease, pregnancy	Reactive	RPR 1:1, 1:2	Non-reactive

### CPT Code

- RPR 86592
- RPR titer 86593
- TPPA 86780



## San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory

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