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Receive Updates



## CDC QAP Civil Surgeon News

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sent this bulletin at 07/24/2018 11:00 AM EDT

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### CDC-Civil Surgeon engagement to increase



#### Get Connected and Stay Informed

The Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), works with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) domestically to oversee civil surgeon programs. We have recently begun efforts to improve our outreach and training program targeted towards civil surgeons. The overall goal is to provide more consistent and timely announcements concerning Technical Instructions changes, policy and regulation updates and to announce upcoming training opportunities. With this in mind, please ensure that you click the **SUBSCRIBE** button above to receive these valuable communications and more!

### Syphilis Technical Instructions update now available online!

There are major changes to the laboratory testing requirements, specifically with regard to confirmatory tests. The changes were made to be consistent with [CDC's Sexually Transmitted](#)

[Diseases Treatment Guidelines.](#)

The Syphilis TI require a **Nontreponemal Test** for screening:

- Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL)
- Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR)

The previous Syphilis TI required positive results on screening to be confirmed using either of the following **Treponemal Tests**:

- T. pallidum passive particle agglutination (TP-PA) assay
- Enzyme Immunoassays (EIAs), or
- Chemiluminescence Immunoassays (CIAs)
- Treponema pallidum microhaemagglutination assay (MHA-TP)

The updated Syphilis TI continue to require the same nontreponemal tests noted above. Effective July 1, 2018, the allowable treponemal test options have changed. MHA-TP is no longer allowed. The new **Treponemal Tests** are as follows:

The current **Treponemal Tests** remain the same and include:

- TP-PA
- EIA
- CIA

Below are additional **Treponemal Test** options:

- Treponema pallidum haemagglutination (TPHA) test
- Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed (FTA-ABS) tests
- Immunoblots (use any products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA] or recommended by the World Health Organization [WHO]).
- Rapid Treponemal Assays (use brand names of this test that are either US FDA-approved or WHO-recommended).

Testing must be performed using a nontreponemal test, then a treponemal test, in this order.

**READ:**

Civil surgeon sites that are independent of US health departments must not refer applicants to a health department for syphilis testing; all screening and confirmatory tests ordered by these sites must be performed independently of a health department. Tests performed elsewhere, or prior to the civil surgeon's examination of the applicant, are not acceptable.

For applicants requiring syphilis treatment, the civil surgeon is required to provide treatment. Treatment should be documented on Form I-693 at Part 7, Civil Surgeon Worksheet, Section 1.B., Communicable Diseases, Syphilis, and include the following:

- **Results** of treponemal and non-treponemal tests, including titers for nontreponemal tests. Type of test used should be noted
- **Stage of syphilis** based on history and clinical findings
- **Drug regimen** received (including doses, dosage units, and administration routes of all medications), start date, completion date, and any periods of interruption.
- **Clinical course**, such as clinical improvement or lack of improvement during and after treatment for primary or secondary syphilis, including resolution of symptoms and signs

and any drug reactions.

**Please review the updated website:** [Technical Instructions for Syphilis for Civil Surgeons](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact us by email at: [gapcivilsurgeons@cdc.gov](mailto:gapcivilsurgeons@cdc.gov)

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