
Date: October 13, 2016

To: All Physicians, Nurses, Medical Officers of Health, Microbiologists and Laboratory Directors in Alberta

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Change in Reporting of *Treponema pallidum* Particle Agglutination (TPPA) Assay Results

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Key Messages:

- Starting October 11, 2016, TPPA assays will be performed onsite at ProvLab and not at the National Microbiology Laboratory.
- TPPA will be performed on:
 - all specimens with invalid INNO-LIA results
 - all specimens with indeterminate INNO-LIA results
- This is an interim process while ProvLab prepares to replace the INNO-LIA with the TPPA as the confirmatory serologic test in the syphilis diagnostic algorithm.
- Results will be reported under a second INNO-LIA with the note:
 - ProvLab has introduced the *Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination assay (TPPA) to resolve indeterminate and invalid INNO-LIA results. The following results are from the TPPA assay:
 - TPPA results will be reported as **Reactive**, **Indeterminate** or **Negative**.

Why this is important:

- TPPA results will be reported under the INNO-LIA test. TPPA assay results may be missed if health care professionals are unaware that it is listed as a second test under INNO-LIA.

Action Required:

- None

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health