

Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory
TEST MENU

***Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination (TPPA) syphilis confirmation**

Method	Particle agglutination
CPT Code	86780 TPPA
Specimen	Serum (preferred) - Required specimen volume: 2-4 mL Minimum specimen volume: 1 mL serum
Collect in	Serum: (preferred specimen) vacutainer tube with or without gel. Plasma: vacutainer with anticoagulant (full), minimum:1 ml plasma.
Labeling	Label transport tube with patient's first and last name or coded identification number. Record date and time collected on the tube.
Processing	Serum: Allow blood to completely clot (usually within 30 minutes). Serum may then be separated by centrifugation for 15 minutes at the speed recommended by the manufacturer. Vacutainer without gel: Separate serum from cells into an appropriately labeled tube Vacutainer with gel: Does not require removing serum into a separate tube. Plasma: Centrifuged plasma specimens must be tested within 48 hours
Transport	Serum – Store and transport refrigerated (2-8 °C) within five days. Plasma – Store and transport refrigerated (2-8 °C) to lab and test within 48 hours
Sample Rejection	-Gross Hemolysis -Bacterial contaminated serum -Specimen quantity not sufficient for testing (QNS) -Mislabelled/Unlabeled specimen
Requisition	SNPHL Request Forms Testing is performed only at the request of SNHD
Turn Around Time	Test performed weekly on Tuesday or Thursday or as indicated by test volume
Results	Non-Reactive Reactive Inconclusive Unable to report
Reported	System generated fax; Electronic transmission
Note	TPPA tends to remain reactive following treponemal infection; therefore, it should not be used to evaluate response to therapy. False positive or Inconclusive results may occur due to yaws, pinta, HIV, leprosy, toxoplasmosis, H. pylori, and drug addiction. Unable to report results to occur because the sample did not meet the test Quality Control parameters due to possible interfering substances. Specimens with Inconclusive or Unable to report TPPA results should be re-drawn in two weeks for testing and confirmed by other treponemal methods, such as Syphilis IgG or FTA/ABS.
Contact	Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory – Clinical Laboratory Section