

# Indian Health Service

## Syphilis Response: Best Practices

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ANDREW YU, MS, BSN, RN, ACRN

NATIONAL HIV/HCV/STI CLINICAL COORDINATOR

DATE 3/23/23



# Rapid/Point-of-Care Testing

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**Health Check:** Rapid syphilis test (10 minute results).

Treponemal antibody test.

[Diagnosics Direct VSC-11-01 - McKesson Medical-Surgical](#)

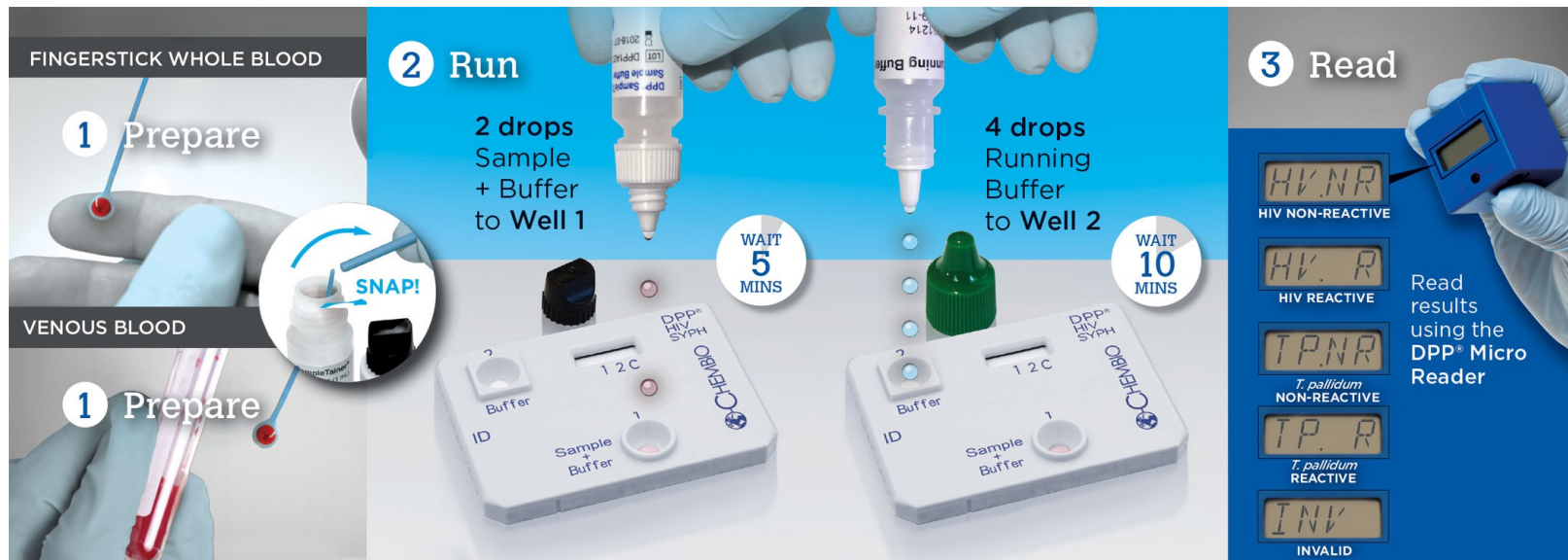


# Rapid/Point-of-Care Testing

**Chembio:** Dual rapid HIV-Syphilis test (15 minute results).

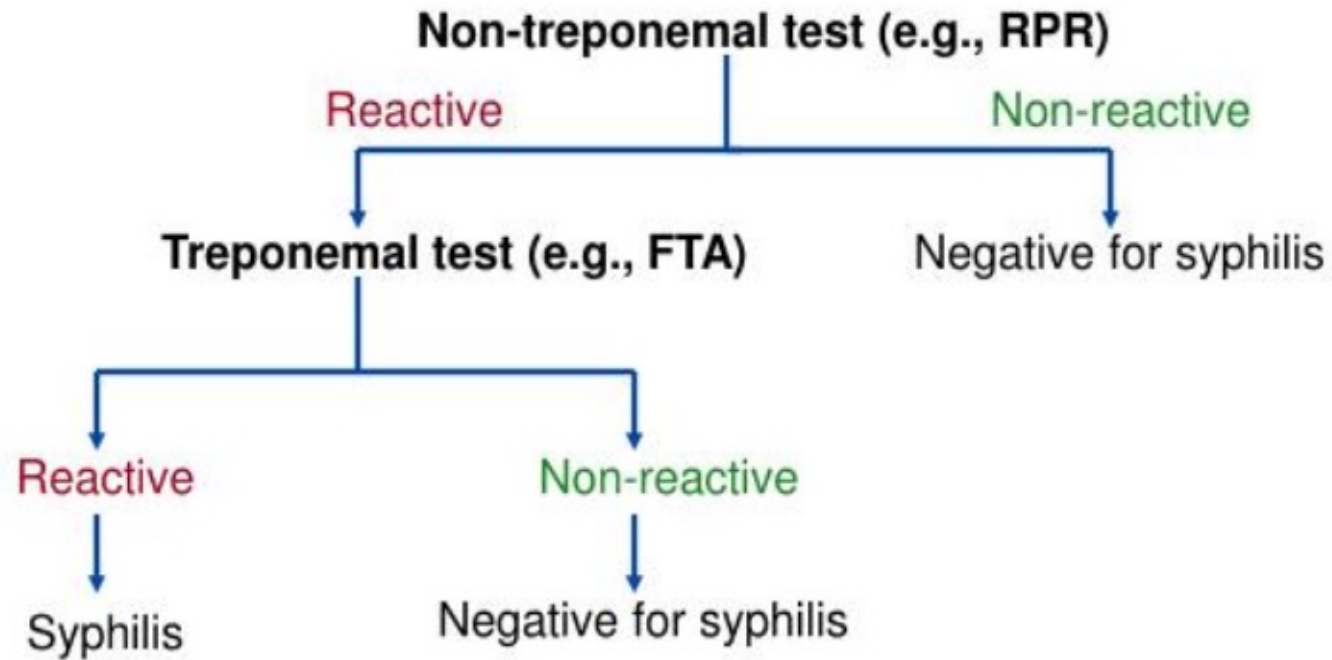
HIV-1/2 antibody test / Treponemal antibody test.

[Chembio Diagnostic 65-9502-0 - McKesson Medical-Surgical](#)



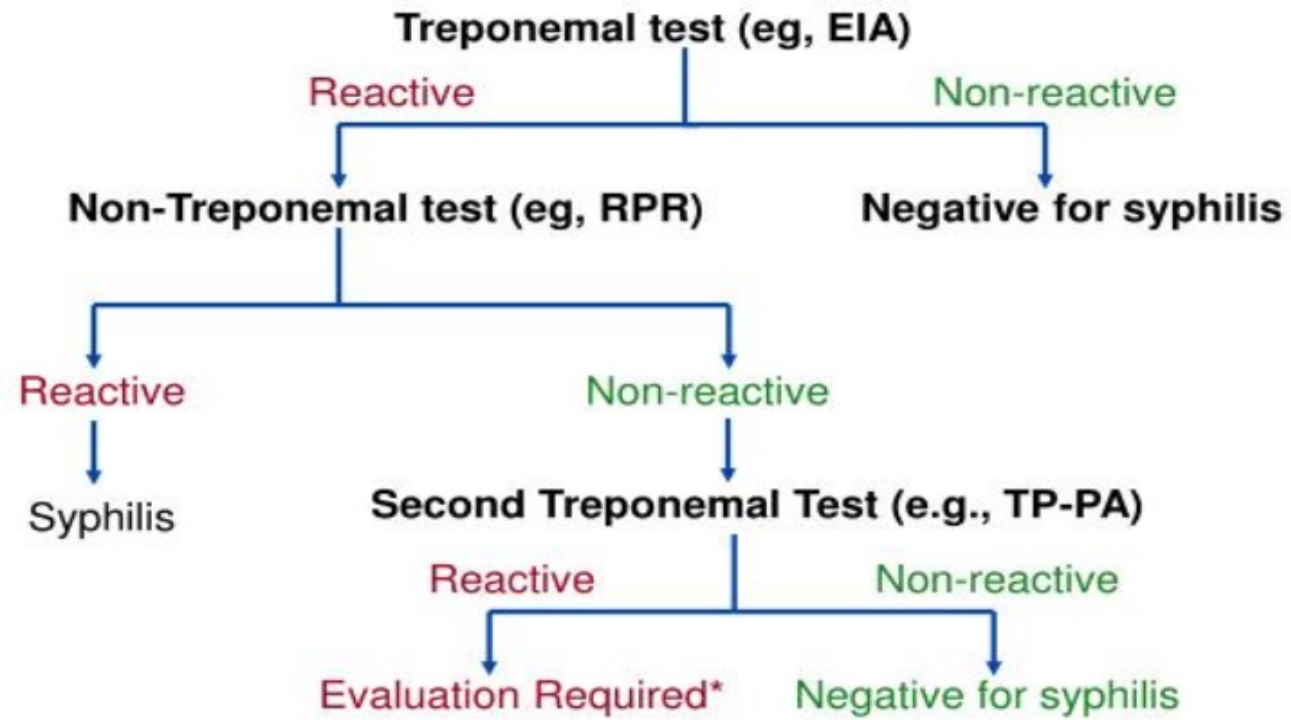
# Traditional Algorithm

## Traditional Algorithm



# Reverse Algorithm

## Reverse Algorithm



# Testing

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- Standing Orders
- Express STI Testing
- [I Want The Kit](#): In-home specimen collection/lab-based testing
- Expanded screening to at-risk communities of sexually active adults and adolescents (schools, corrections, emergency department, primary care, obstetrics, dental, community venues, parole centers, work physicals)



# Treatment

- Rapid Treatment
  - Treat immediately after rapid test results
- Presumptive Treatment
  - Symptomatic patients
  - Patients with known exposure



# Field Based Screening and Treatment

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- Considerations:
  - Personnel: avoid providing care alone – team with PHN, pharmacist, tribal STI worker, or any other approved staff
  - Confirm that there is adequate cell phone service and emergency services (911 and EMS) are available
  - Screen for exclusionary criteria: history of true penicillin allergy and/or serious complications
  - Ensure all supplies and equipment are available for transport





# Field Based Screening and Treatment

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- Anaphylaxis Management:
  - Often occurs within 15-30 minutes of medication administration
  - Administer Epinephrine as soon as possible
  - Contact emergency medical services
  - Transfer patient to a higher level of medical care
  - Document in EHR



# Allergies

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- Penicillin G is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to penicillin. However, **fewer than 1%** of the whole population are truly allergic to penicillin.
- Approximately 80% of patients with IgE-mediated penicillin allergy lose their sensitivity after 10 years.
- Correctly identifying those who are not truly penicillin-allergic can decrease the unnecessary use of broad-spectrum antibiotics.



# Allergies

Evaluate the patient for a true penicillin allergy (IgE-mediated) by conducting a history and physical, and when appropriate, a skin test and challenge dose.

- History and physical: What kinds of reactions occurred? How long ago did the reaction occur? How was the reaction managed? What was the outcome?
- Characteristics of an IgE-mediated (Type 1) reaction: **Occur immediately or usually within one hour.** Hives, angioedema, wheezing and shortness of breath, anaphylaxis.
- Anaphylaxis: Requires **at least two of the following symptoms:** Skin (hives, flushing, itching, angioedema), Respiratory (cough, nasal congestion, shortness of breath, chest tightness, wheezing, choking, change in voice quality), Cardiovascular (hypotension, syncope, tachy/bradycardia, tunnel vision, chest pain, sense of impending doom, loss of consciousness), Gastrointestinal (nausea, vomiting, cramping, diarrhea)
- Penicillin Skin Test
- Challenge Doses



# Allergies

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- If penicillin allergy is ruled out, **remove from the allergy list** on patient's electronic health record
- Pregnant people with confirmed hypersensitivity to penicillin should be desensitized to receive penicillin.



# DoxyPEP: Post Exposure Prophylaxis

Take **1 dose of Doxycycline 200mg** 24-72 hours after condomless sex<sup>1</sup>

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- Found a **65% reduction in chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis** among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women
- CDC has acknowledged that providers and patients have started to use DoxyPEP off-label and provided considerations for its use:
  - A reminder that current studies have shown promise among MSM and transgender women, but not among cis-gender women.
  - Only Doxycycline has been studied, no other antibiotics.<sup>1</sup>



# DoxyPEP: Post Exposure Prophylaxis

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- Further analyses are needed to determine the effects of intermittent doxycycline use on antimicrobial resistance and long-term effects on the gut.
- Doxycycline is contraindicated for pregnant people (second and third trimesters). Doxycycline may cause fatty liver disease in pregnant people and tooth staining.<sup>1</sup>



# Electronic Health Record

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- Screening reminders
  - Annual syphilis testing for persons aged 13-64
  - Annual EHR reminders should be turned on until incidence rates return locally to baseline
  - Adoption of an STI/HIV/Viral hepatitis testing bundle
- Patient flags
  - Care Coordination



# Case Management

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- Case investigation
- Contact tracing
  - Expedited partner therapy
- Utilizing non-clinical partners
- Treatment Adherence Support
  - Multiple Bicillin injections
  - Follow up on Doxycycline adherence





# Communication

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- Patient: Internet partner services
  - Text messaging
  - Email
  - Social media
    - IHS Headquarters currently working on policies to expand communication options to include internet partner services
- Clinicians: Obtaining medical records
  - HIPPA Release



# Incentives

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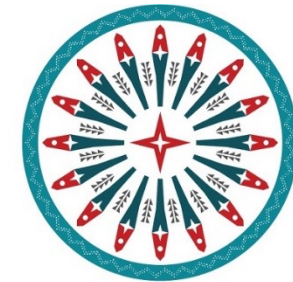
- Used to enhance screening and adherence to treatment
- IHS Headquarters currently working on policies to allow the direct transfer of federal funds to service areas
- Criteria of what is allowed/not allowed to be purchased



# Resources

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- Indian Country ECHO
  - <http://www.indiancountryecho.org>
  - Future Syphilis training
- ID Consults



INDIAN + COUNTRY  
**ECHO**



**Andrew Yu, MS, BSN, RN, ACRN**

National HIV/HCV/STI Clinical Coordinator

Indian Health Service Headquarters

Division of Clinical & Community Services

[Andrew.Yu@ihs.gov](mailto:Andrew.Yu@ihs.gov)

(240) 472-6189

