Indications for Testing
Persons with signs or symptoms of syphilis infection
Asymptomatic persons at high risk for syphilis (or of transmitting the disease to others)

### Traditional Sequence Algorithm (Based on CDC recommendations)

**Perform nontreponemal testing**
- Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) with Reflex to Titer

- **Nonreactive**
  - Consider retesting in 3-12 months if patient remains in risk category
  - **Nonreactive**
    - Syphilis unlikely
    - False-positive RPR caused by infectious process, pregnancy, drug use, etc.

- **Reactive**
  - **Confirm with treponemal testing**
    - Treponema pallidum Antibody by TP-PA

- **Nonreactive**
  - Syphilis unlikely
  - False-positive IgG result

- **Reactive**
  - Syphilis likely
  - Treat according to CDC guidelines

### “Reverse” Sequence Screening Algorithm

**Perform treponemal testing**
- Treponema pallidum Antibody, IgG by ELISA

- **Positive**
  - Consider retesting in 3-12 months if patient remains in risk category
  - **Nonreactive**
    - Syphilis unlikely
    - False-positive RPR caused by infectious process, pregnancy, drug use, etc.

- **Reactive**
  - **ORDER**
    - Treponema pallidum Antibody by TP-PA

  - **Nonreactive**
    - Syphilis unlikely
    - Probable false-positive IgG result

  - **Reactive**
    - Syphilis likely
    - Treat according to CDC guidelines

### Abbreviations
- ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
- IgG: Immunoglobulin G
- TP-PA: Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay

*Unless patient has history of known, treated syphilis in the past*