Figure 4. Alternative, Reverse Algorithm for Syphilis Screening and Diagnosis [CDC 2011; AIDSinfo 2017]

EIA or CIA Testing

Result: EIA (+) or CIA (+)

Nontreponemal testing (e.g., RPR or VDRL)

Result: Nontreponemal (+)

Assess for treatment

Result: TP-PA (+)

Assess for treatment

Result: TP-PA (-)

STOP*

Result: EIA (-) or CIA (-)

STOP*

Key: CIA, chemiluminescence immunoassay; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; RPR, rapid plasma reagin; TP-PA, T. pallidum particle agglutination; VDRL, venereal disease research laboratory.

*Result may be false-negative; consider alternative treponemal test if clinical suspicion is high.

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