

Sexually Transmitted Bacteria Reference Laboratory

Health Protection Agency, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT

Referral of specimens for Syphilis Serology

Interim Policy: April 2009

•STBRL is the regional reference centre for Syphilis serology for London and the South East. The diagnostic service offered employs a battery of Treponemal tests including: Total EIA, TPPA, IgM EIA and RPR. An InnoLIA test will also be performed when discrepant results are obtained. A minimum volume of 0.5ml of serum is required.

•**STBRL accept the following specimens for reference purposes and are processed free of charge.**

- Specimens sourced from patients with suspected neurosyphilis (CSF specimens)

- Specimens sourced from patients with suspected congenital syphilis

- Serum specimens which have been tested using a minimum of three tests and have generated discordant results

•**STBRL will also accept the following specimen types which –do not meet reference criteria- and therefore will be processed at a charge:**

- Serum specimens referred for the completion of primary testing (where only one or two tests have been conducted)

- Serum specimens referred for confirmatory diagnostic testing (where 3 or more tests have been completed locally and the results produced are not discordant. Such specimens are usually referred to STBRL to either confirm recent or past Treponemal infection or to perform IgM Testing)

- All specimens sent from a private laboratories

•**All specimens referred with insufficient information will be processed and the referring laboratory charged.**

The laboratory can be contacted by telephone (020 8327 6464) or email stbri@hpa.org.uk