BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

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Attn: British Columbia Association of Medical Microbiologists

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, Syphilis cases and testing volumes have been steadily increasing over the past few years. The Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) test used in the determination of *Treponema pallidum* infection status is currently being performed as a manual assay. To improve turnaround time, quality and consistency of results and reduce technologist ergonomic issues, the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory (PHL) has recently evaluated and validated an automated *Treponema pallidum* Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) analyzer – Gold Standard Diagnostics (GSD) AIX 1000.

The data obtained from our validation unequivocally indicates that this automated test will provide results equal or superior to those currently generated for patient management. We will continue maintaining our proficiency with manual testing to investigate low volume, neonatal and high titre sample end points. A validation of 811 clinical samples demonstrated a sensitivity of 99.02% and specificity of 100.0%. All 811 samples agreed within ±1 dilution titre. Please note that other provincial laboratory such as Ontario Public Health (OPL) laboratory also implemented this automated platform.

In line with our commitment to providing high-quality service at BCCDC PHL, effective immediately we are implementing our RPR testing on the GSD AIX 1000. Please refer to the eLab handbook for detailed sample information: eLab Handbook

If you require any further information, please consult Dr. Morshed at 604-707-2622.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

L. Hoang.

Linda Hoang, MD, MSc, DTM&H, FRCPC
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