



ESP CASE DETECTION ALGORITHM

Syphilis

Document Version 4.1

Prepared by the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

esphealth@harvardpilgrim.org

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Modification History

| Version | Date | Modification | By |
|---------|------------|---|--------------|
| 4.1 | 6/24/2022 | Updated ICD codes | DPM/CII |
| 4.0 | 12/19/2019 | Reporting titer values of 1:1 and greater | DPM/CII/MDPH |
| 3.1 | 7/25/2019 | Added a new syphilis test to criteria 2 | DPM/CII |
| 3.0 | 3/1/2019 | Added new provider reporting fields | DPM |
| 2.22 | 10/11/2017 | Added ESP Logo and MDPH branding | DPM |
| 2.21 | 7/6/2017 | Transferred to updated algorithm template | DPM |
| 2.2 | 2/22/2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Required all positive RPR values to contain a titer value.Modified time window in which to report previous reportable lab results. | DPM/MDPH |
| 2.1 | 11/10/2016 | Updated recurrence interval from 1 year to 6 months. | DPM/MDPH |
| 2.0 | 5/24/2016 | Added appropriated ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes. | DPM/MDPH |
| 1.0 | 4/17/2013 | Original circulated version. | DPM/MDPH |



Section 1. Overview

The purpose of this document is to describe the criteria used to identify and report cases of Syphilis from electronic medical records (EMR) using ESP. All patients who meet the criteria will be reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). In addition, supplementary information (e.g., demographic information) will be included with the initial case report, as described in [Section 3](#).

Section 2. Criteria used to identify cases using ESP data

I. CASE TYPES

This document includes an algorithm to identify syphilis.

II. TIME WINDOW

The recurrence window for syphilis is 6 months (180 days).

III. CASE CRITERIA

Any one of the following:

1. (Diagnosis code (ICD-9 Code 090-097 or ICD10 A50-A53) or TP-IGM) AND an order/prescription for at least ONE of the following antibiotics within a 14-day period:
 - a. "PENICILLIN G" or "PEN G"
 - b. "DOXYCYCLINE" for ≥ 7 days¹
 - c. "CEFTRIAXONE" dose ≥ 1 gram²
2. Serum RPR or VDRL³ value greater than or equal to 1:1^{4,5} and any of the following:
 - a. Lab test TPPA with result "reactive" ever in the past and up to 1 month following the positive RPR or VDRL OR
 - b. Lab test FTA-ABS with result "reactive" ever in the past and up to 1 month following the positive RPR or VDRL OR
 - c. Lab test TP-IGG with result "positive" or "reactive" ever in the past and up to 1 month following positive RPR or VDRL
 - d. Lab test TP-CIA or TP-CIA L with result "reactive" ever in the past and up to 1 month following the positive RPR or VDRL
3. Positive CSF test for syphilis. Any of the following:
 - a. VDRL-CSF value "reactive" or $\geq 1:1$ ⁴
 - b. TPPA-CSF with result "reactive" or "positive" or equivalent
 - c. FTA-ABS-CSF with result "reactive" or "positive" or equivalent



IV. NOTES

1. If doxycycline prescription does not include a specified duration ≥ 7 days or a stop date ≥ 7 days following the prescription date, then a “quantity” field result of ≥ 14 is an adequate proxy for ≥ 7 days of doxycycline.
2. If dose value for ceftriaxone is not populated it is sometimes possible to discern the minimum dose by looking at the drug name. For example, in Atrius Health there are some preparations of ceftriaxone that include the terms “1G” or “2G” within the drug name in addition to the word “CEFTRIAZONE”.
Examples:
 - a. ROCEPHIN VIAL 2G IJ (CEFTRIAZONE SODIUM)
 - b. ROCEPHIN VIAL 1G IJ (CEFTRIAZONE SODIUM)
3. VDRL is distinct from VDRL-CSF. We must ensure that only titer ratios are evaluated. Other result values such as “positive” or “reactive” are ignored.
4. RPR and VDRL results are expressed as dilutions (e.g. 1:2, 1:4, 1:8, etc.). The higher the number in the denominator the more ‘positive’ the test result. An RPR $\geq 1:1$ means a value of (1:1, 1:2, 1:4, etc.). RPR results of “positive” without a titer value should not be considered positive.
5. ESP also creates cases with “active syphilis” as the condition name. The only difference between “active syphilis” cases and syphilis cases are that “active syphilis” requires an RPR of $\geq 1:8$ (versus 1:1). All other criteria are the same.

Section 3. Specifications for reporting diseases/conditions to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

I. INITIAL CASE REPORTING CRITERIA

All cases should be immediately reported to MDPH upon initial detection.

II. CASE REPORT UPDATE CRITERIA

Any serum RPR or CSF VDRL results that arise following case identification should be sent to MDPH. This should continue indefinitely.

III. DATA TO INCLUDE IN REPORTS TO MDPH

A. Demographic

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Name | Last, first, middle |
| Date of birth | yyyy/mm/dd |
| Age | |
| Social security number | Last 4 digits |
| Gender | Male / Female |
| Race | American Indian / Asian / Black / White / Other / Unknown |
| Ethnicity | Hispanic / Non-Hispanic / Unknown |
| Address | Line 1, line 2, city, state, zip, country |
| Phone | xxx-xxx-xxxx |
| Language spoken | |



| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Medical record number | |
| PCP | Name, office address, phone number, email |

B. Lab Ordering Facility Information

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Facility name | |
| Facility address | Line 1, line 2, city, state, zip |
| Facility contact person | |
| Contact person email | |
| Contact person phone | xxx-xxx-xxxx |
| Facility phone | xxx-xxx-xxxx |
| Facility NPI | |

C. Encounter Data

See [Table 5](#) below for the NA codes to send provider fields in HL7 messages

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lab test ordering provider | Name and NPI |
| Prescribing provider | Name and NPI |
| Primary care provider | Name and NPI |
| Managing treatment provider | Name and NPI |
| Treatment encounter facility name | |
| Treatment encounter facility address | Line 1, line 2, city, state, zip |
| Treatment encounter facility NPI | |

D. Laboratory Results

Laboratory results occurring within 7 to 0 days prior to the case date should be reported.

See *Section 4* for LOINC mappings.

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| RPR | Specimen source, value, date |
| TPPA | Specimen source, value, date |
| FTA-ABS | Specimen source, value, date |
| VDRL-CSF | CSF, value, date |
| TP-IGM | Specimen source, value, date |
| TP-IGG | Specimen source, value, date |
| TP-CIA | Specimen source, value, date |
| TP-CIA L | Specimen source, value, date |
| TPPA-CSF | CSF, value, date |
| FTA-ABS-CSF | CSF, value, date |

E. Pregnancy

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Pregnancy flag active | Yes or No |
| Expected Date of Delivery (EDD) | |

F. Disease Stage



If an ICD-9 or ICD-10 diagnosis code indicating disease stage occurs within 28 days of case being established, then disease stage is reported. *See Section 4 for specific diagnosis codes.*

G. Clinical Diagnosis

If an ICD-9 or ICD-10 diagnosis code indicating a clinical diagnosis for syphilis occurs within 28 days of case being established, then the precise ICD-9/ICD-10 code and ICD-9/ICD-10 text is reported. *See Section 4 for specific diagnosis codes.*

H. Treatment

If patient is prescribed medication for syphilis treatment within 28 days before or after case established, then report the date, medication, dose, route, and duration of treatment. *See Section 4 for specific medications.*

IV. CRITERIA TO REVOKE A CASE

None.

Section 4. Codes, laboratory tests, and medications used to identify criteria listed in Section 2 and supplementary reporting information in Section 3.

I. DIAGNOSIS CODES

Table 1. Diagnosis Codes Used to Identify Disease Stage

| Code Type | Code | Description |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| ICD-9-CM | 091.0 to 091.2 | Primary |
| ICD-9-CM | 091.3 to 091.9 | Secondary |
| ICD-9-CM | 092.x | Early latent |
| ICD-9-CM | 096.x | Late latent |
| ICD-9-CM | 094.x | Neurosyphilis |
| ICD-9-CM | 090.0 to 090.4, 090.9 | Congenital (infant) |
| ICD-9-CM | 090.5 to 090.7 | Late congenital |
| ICD-10-CM | A50* | Congenital |
| ICD-10-CM | A51.0 to A51.2 | Primary |
| ICD-10-CM | A51.3 to A51.4 | Secondary |
| ICD-10-CM | A51.5 | Early syphilis, latent |
| ICD-10-CM | A51.9 | Early syphilis, unspecified |
| ICD-10-CM | A52.0 | Cardiovascular syphilis |
| ICD-10-CM | A52.1 to A52.3 | Neurosyphilis |
| ICD-10-CM | A52.7 | Other symptomatic late syphilis |
| ICD-10-CM | A52.8 | Late syphilis, latent |
| ICD-10-CM | A52.9 | Late syphilis, unspecified |
| ICD-10-CM | A53.0 | Latent syphilis, unspecified as early or late |
| ICD-10-CM | A53.9 | Syphilis, unspecified |



Table 2. Diagnosis Codes Used to Identify Clinical Diagnosis

| Code Type | Code | Description |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| ICD-9-CM | 090.x to 097.x | Syphilis |
| ICD-9-CM | 098.12 | Gonococcal prostatitis (acute) |
| ICD-10-CM | A51 to A53 | Syphilis |
| ICD-10-CM | z20.2 | Syphilis - Contact with and (suspected) exposure to infections with a predominantly sexual mode of transmission |

II. LABORATORY TEST LOINCS

Table 3. Laboratory Test LOINC Mapping

| Test Name | LOINC | LOINC Name |
|-----------|---------|---|
| TPPA | 11597-2 | Treponema pallidum Ab : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Qn |
| RPR | 20507-0 | Reagin Ab : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Ord : Rapid test |
| VDRL | 20507-0 | Reagin Ab : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Ord : Rapid test |
| FTA-ABS | 34147-9 | Treponema pallidum Ab.IgG+IgM : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Ord : |
| TP-IGG | 22592-0 | Treponema pallidum Ab.IgG : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Qn : |
| VDRL-CSF | 5290-2 | Reagin Ab presence, VDRL, CSF |
| TP-CIA | 24110-9 | Treponema pallidum Ab : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Ord : EIA |
| TP-CIA L | 24110-9 | Treponema pallidum Ab : ACnc : Pt : Ser : Ord : EIA |

III. MEDICATIONS

Table 4. Syphilis Medications

| Generic Name |
|-------------------------|
| Penicillin G or "Pen G" |
| Ceftriaxone |
| Doxycycline |

IV. NA CODES

Table 5. NA Codes for provider reporting fields

| NA code | Description |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| NA-1746 | Prescribing provider name |
| NA-1747 | Prescribing provider NPI |
| NA-1748 | Treatment encounter facility name |
| NA-1749 | Treatment encounter facility address |
| NA-1750 | Treatment encounter facility city |
| NA-1751 | Treatment encounter facility state |
| NA-1752 | Treatment encounter facility NPI |
| NA-1753 | Primary care provider name |



| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| NA-1754 | Primary care provider NPI |
| NA-1755 | Ordering provider name |
| NA-1756 | Ordering provider NPI |
| NA-1757 | Lab ordering facility name |
| NA-1758 | Lab ordering facility address |
| NA-1759 | Lab ordering facility city |
| NA-1760 | Lab ordering facility state |
| NA-1761 | Lab ordering facility NPI |
| NA-1762 | Managing treatment provider name |
| NA-1763 | Managing treatment provider NPI |

V. CODE MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Continuously screen all incoming Lx_Component_Name fields for the text strings: “SYPH” or “RPR” or “VDRL” or “TP” or “FTA” or “TREP” or “PALLIDUM”.