Syphilis Staging Algorithm

Symptoms at time of blood draw?

- YES
  - Presence of painless lesion (chancre)
  - RPR may be positive or negative
  - Confirmatory test is reactive
  - YES → Primary Syphilis
  - NO → Late Latent

- NO
  - Presence of palmar/plantar rash, body rash, multiple lesions, alopecia, or condylamata lata
  - RPR is positive
  - Confirmatory test is reactive
  - YES → Secondary Syphilis
  - NO
    - Are there infected partners?
      - YES → Early Latent
      - NO
        - Was there a (-) syphilis blood test in the last 12 months?
          - YES
            - OR -
            - Did patient have signs or symptoms of syphilis in the past 12 months?
              - NO → Late Latent
              - YES → Early Latent
          - NO → Late Latent
        - OR -
        - If previously treated for syphilis, was there a 2 dilution (4 fold) increase in RPR titer?
          - YES → Early Latent
          - NO → Late Latent
Syphilis Treatment

Primary Syphilis

Secondary Syphilis

Early Latent

Late Latent

Acquired within 12 months (EARLY SYPHILIS)
Benzathine penicillin G
- 2.4 million units IM in a single dose

Acquired more than 12 months ago (LATE SYPHILIS)
Benzathine penicillin G
- 7.2 million units total (administered as 3 doses of 2.4 million units IM each at 1-week intervals)

NOTE: Pregnant women with penicillin allergy should be desensitized and treated with penicillin since Penicillin G is the only known effective antimicrobial for preventing maternal transmission to the fetus and treating fetal infection.