

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

- 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?
- OR -
Was there a (-) syphilis blood test in the last 12 months?
- OR -
If previously treated for syphilis, was there a 2 dilution (4 fold) increase in RPR titer?
- OR -
Did patient have signs or symptoms of syphilis in the past 12 months?

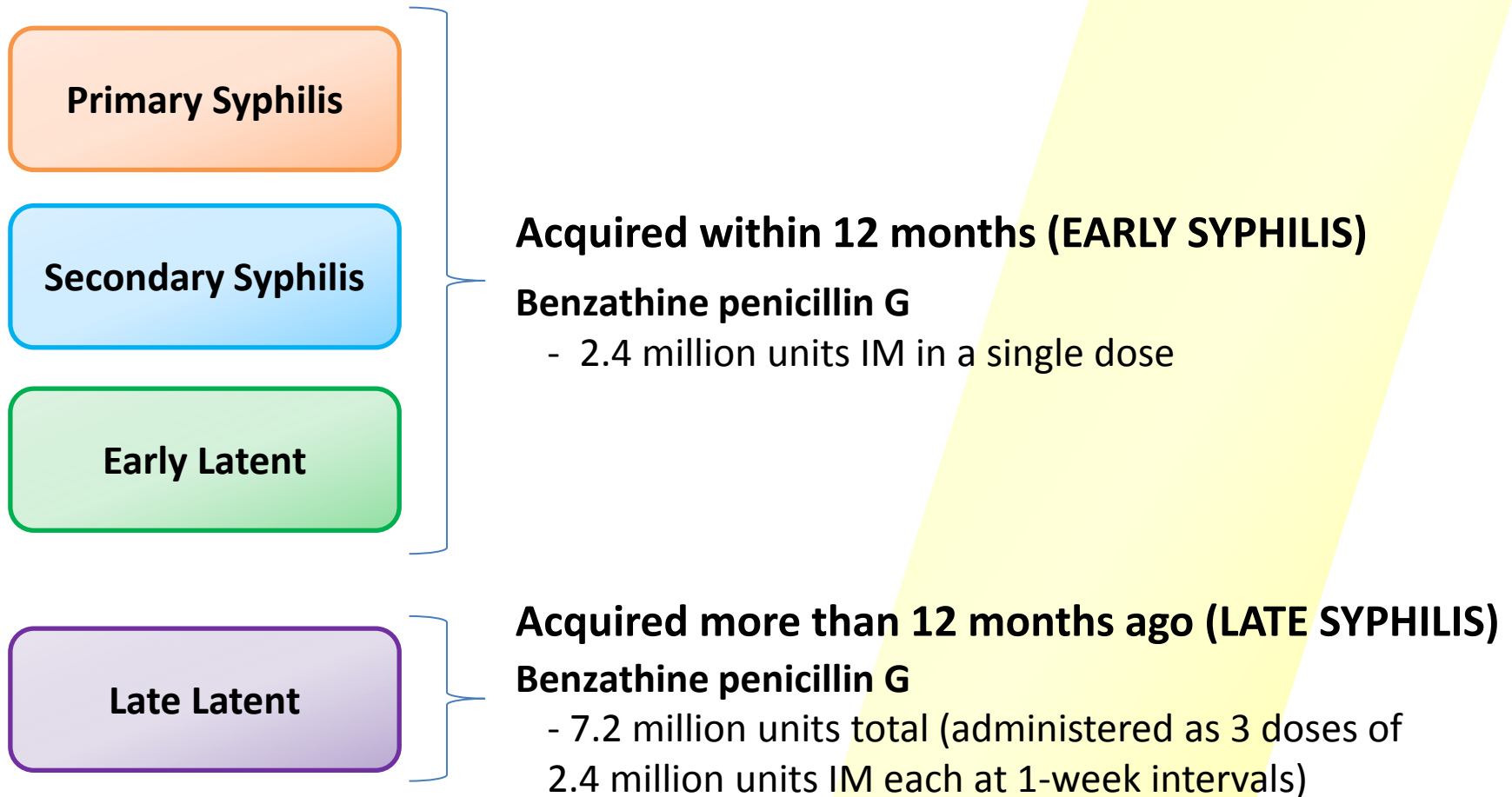
YES

Early Latent

NO

Late Latent

Syphilis Treatment



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.