Syphilis, Darkfield Examination

Method: Darkfield microscopy

CPT Code: 87166

Preferred Specimen: Serous fluid from lesion prior to antimicrobial therapy

Other Acceptable Specimens: None

Specimen Identification: Label with patient’s first and last name, DOB and date/time of collection.

Special Instructions:
- Notify Laboratory of darkfield request ASAP
- Indicate specimen source on requisition slip.
- Include any pertinent patient medical history
- Indicate suspected diagnosis

Specimen Container: Clear exudates in syringe (no needles accepted) or expressed in sterile tube with one or two drops of sterile saline.

Shipping Requirements: Store and ship at room temperature immediately
- DO NOT refrigerate

Sample Rejection Criteria:
- Inappropriate specimen transport
- Specimen greater than one hour old

Turn-around-time: Same day