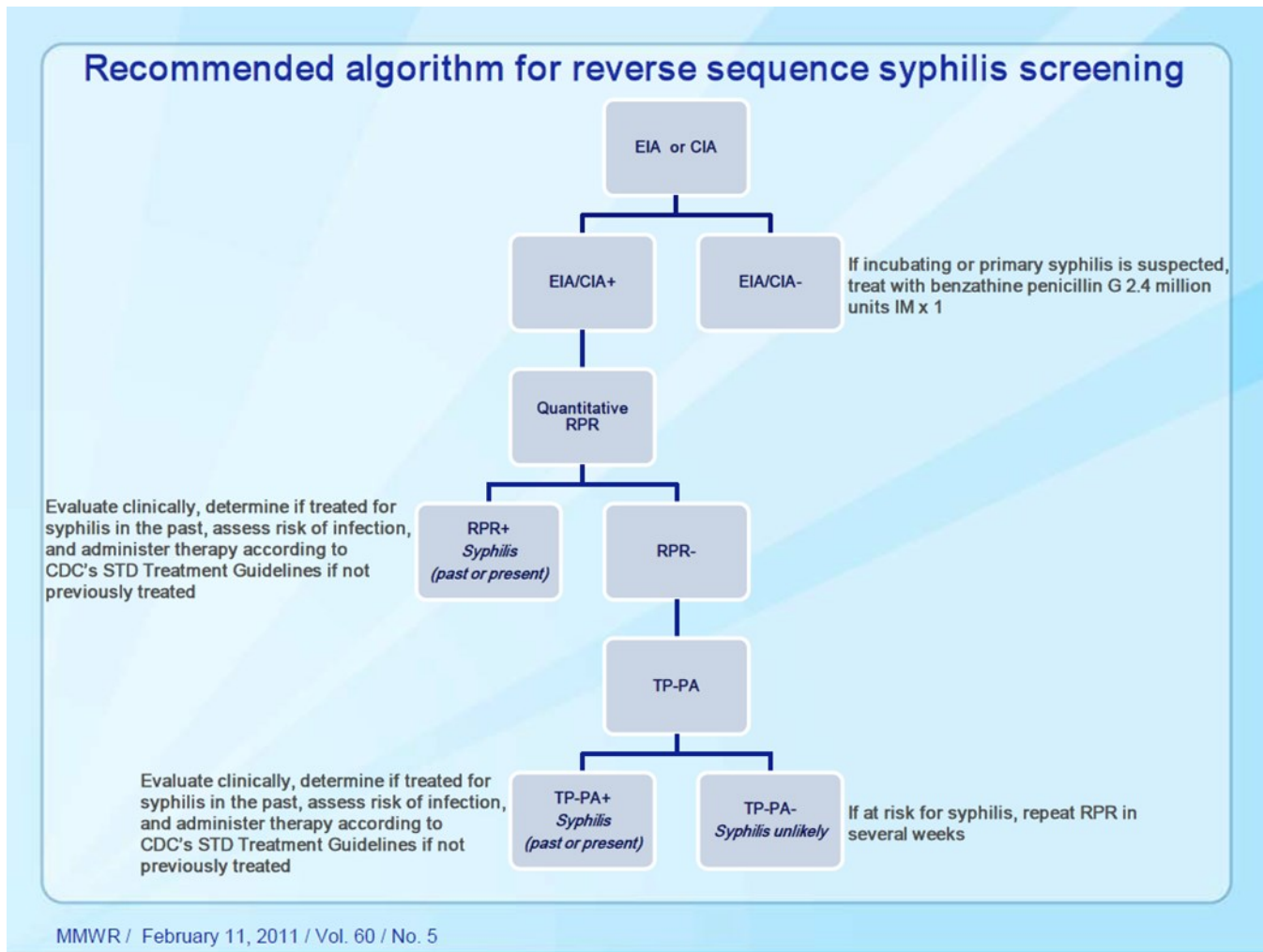


Syphilis Testing

- Serologic diagnosis of new syphilis infections always **REQUIRES 2 TESTS**: a treponemal-specific test and a non-specific screening test
- The Reverse Sequence Algorithm is the preferred method of testing

Traditional non-specific screening tests (RPR, VDRL) can have false positives and can miss early primary, late untreated, and treated infections. The reverse algorithm starts with a more sensitive EIA/CIA test followed by a reflex to a RPR. The non-specific screening (RPR, VDRL) is used to identify treated or active infection. All discordant specimens (EIA+ / RPR-) must receive a confirmatory treponemal test (TP-PA test is recommended).



Non treponemal tests	Treponemal tests (traditional)	Treponemal tests (CIA/EIA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid plasma regain (RPR) • Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) • Tolidinized unheated serum test (TRUST) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed (FTA-ABS) • Treponema pallidum particle agglutination (TP-PA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enzyme immunoassays (EIAs) • Chemiluminescence immunoassays (CIAs)



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