

## Preface

The first in a series of manuals of tests for syphilis was published in 1939. In the subsequent manuals the most widely used and reliable procedures followed in the United States were included. The manuals have been revised periodically to delete procedures that have become obsolete and to include new or improved and adequately evaluated procedures. The 8th edition of the *Manual of Tests for Syphilis* was published as a practical guide for the laboratory assisted diagnosis of syphilis and included sections on laboratory safety, blood collection, and clinical diagnosis of syphilis. The 9th edition of the *Manual of Tests for Syphilis* is intended as a practical guide; sections on laboratory safety, blood collection, and clinical diagnosis of syphilis are not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to provide the laboratorian or clinician with general principles, policies, and procedures. The 9th edition is more comprehensive than the previous editions because of the inclusion of tests other than those considered as Standard Status Tests. To comply with CLIA 88 regulations, the editors and chapter authors included in the 9th edition procedures for commercially available tests and also for tests for which the individual components may be purchased, such as immunoblotting. Nevertheless, trade names used in the manual do not constitute a commercial endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the editors, or the American Public Health Association. The format of the 9th edition was slightly altered from earlier editions to be consistent with the recommendations of CLIA 88.

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The success of the *Manual of Tests for Syphilis* depends on the contributions of the

authors. We wish to thank the members of the panel for the 9th of the *Manual of Tests for Syphilis* for their continued enthusiasm and dedication to the tasks of framing the content of the manual and the writing the individual chapters. Also we thank Kathleen Perry for expert clerical assistance, and Sharon Hoskins and Robin Moseley for the enormous task of editorial review. Finally we hope that the users of the 9th edition will find that the traditions of the previous editions have been maintained.

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