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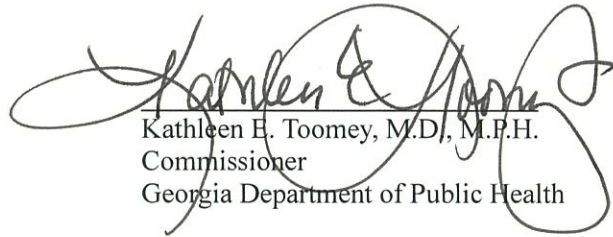
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS

Revisions to Chapter 511-5-4
"Serological Testing for Pregnant Women"

The Department of Public Health hereby adopts amendments to Rule 511-5-4, "Serological Testing for Pregnant Women," as provided in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued on January 8, 2025. This action is taken pursuant to the Department's authority under Georgia Code Section 31-2A-6, 31-12-3, and 31-17-4.

In accordance with Georgia Code Section 31-5-1, the above-listed amendments will take effect on March 12, 2025.

This 10th day of February 2025.



Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Public Health

**RULES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 511-5
HEALTH PROMOTION**

**511-5-4
SEROLOGICAL TESTING FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**

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Rule 511-5-4-.01 Purpose

The purpose of this Rule is to detect the presence of certain infectious diseases in a pregnant or postpartum woman and provide appropriate treatment for the woman and baby.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6, 31-12-3, 31-17-4.

Rule 511-5-4-.02 Definitions

Unless a different meaning is required by the context, the following terms as used in these Rules shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively ascribed to same:

- (a) "Standard serologic test for syphilis" means a test designed to detect evidence of syphilis.
- (b) "Standard serologic test for hepatitis B" means a test designed to detect evidence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg).
- (c) "Standard serologic test for hepatitis C" means a test designed to detect evidence of hepatitis C. This definition includes an HCV-antibody test with reflect HCV RNA polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.
- (d) "Standard serologic test for HIV" means a test designed to detect evidence of HIV.
- (e) "Department" means the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6, 31-12-3, 31-17-4.

Rule 511-5-4-.03 Provisions

(1) Unless the patient declines screening, every pregnant woman shall have a blood specimen taken as prescribed herein for a standard serologic test for syphilis, a standard serologic test for HIV, a standard serologic test for hepatitis B and a standard serologic test for hepatitis C.

(2) Every health care provider in this state providing prenatal care to a pregnant woman, or delivering or attending a woman just delivered, shall take or cause to be taken a venous blood specimen for submission to a clinical laboratory for a standard serologic test for syphilis, a standard serologic test for HIV, a standard serologic test for hepatitis B and a standard serologic test for hepatitis C, as follows:

- (a) At the initial visit to the health care provider for prenatal care, a standard serologic test for:
 - 1. Syphilis;
 - 2. HIV;
 - 3. Hepatitis B; and

4. Hepatitis C.

(b) In the third trimester:

1. A standard serologic test for syphilis, as required in O.C.G.A. Section 31-17-4.2. The specimen shall be taken at 28-32 weeks of gestation;

2. A standard serologic test for HIV, as required in O.C.G.A. Section 31-17-4.2. The specimen shall be taken at 28-32 weeks of gestation; and

3. A standard serologic test for hepatitis C if the woman has known or potential exposures to hepatitis C.

(c) As soon as possible upon admission to the hospital or birth facility for delivery:

1. A standard serologic test for syphilis;

2. A standard serologic test for HIV;

3. A standard serologic test for Hepatitis B, for women not tested prenatally, with signs or symptoms of hepatitis, or at high risk for hepatitis B; and

4. A standard serologic test for Hepatitis C, for women not tested prenatally.

(3) Patients shall be notified of all tests to be conducted and shall have the opportunity to refuse the test.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6, 31-12-3, 31-17-4.