Siemens AD VIA Centaur Syphilis Assay receives licensing from Health Canada

Mississauga, ON, September 20, 2012 – Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics announced today that its AD VIA Centaur® Syphilis Assay for the detection of antibodies against Treponema pallidum, a bacterium known to cause the sexually-transmitted disease, syphilis, has been approved by Health Canada. This assay is the first automated syphilis immunoassay licensed for donor screening in Canada. Now, laboratories in Canada can equip themselves with a new testing tool for this serious condition and drive additional workflow and efficiency gains by combining it with other infectious disease testing on the Siemens AD VIA Centaur family of high-throughput, random-access immunoassay systems.

Syphilis has been called the “great imposter” because its symptoms can mimic other infections in advanced stages.¹ When left untreated, syphilis can lead to serious neurological and cardiovascular complications, and cause stillbirth in pregnant women. Fortunately, detection of the presence of syphilis antibodies in patients may be used to support decisions for an antibiotic therapy, detect persons at risk to spread the infection and identify those that are not aware of their infection to prevent late complications. Recently, a meta-analysis of 10 studies involving 41,049 women found that screening and treatment of the infection in pregnant women could reduce by more than half the number of stillbirths and perinatal deaths resulting from maternal transmission of syphilis.²

Syphilis infections are a growing problem in Canada. Rates of syphilis infection across the country have risen more than 900 per cent between 1997 and 2006, according to data from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Consequently, more children are also being born with syphilis contracted from infected mothers who didn’t know they had the disease.

“Testing for syphilis is a simple, yet effective tool for optimizing health outcomes in at-risk patients,” said Dave Hickey, Chief Executive Officer, Chemistry, Immunoassay, Automation and Diagnostics IT Business Unit, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. “Consolidating syphilis testing onto a single system addresses a critical challenge of laboratories today— to improve operational efficiency while delivering fast, accurate results that help guide clinicians in identifying and caring for patients affected by this disease.”

Additionally, Siemens offers an extensive portfolio of highly automated infectious disease assays (available on the AD VIA Centaur/XP/CP and IMMULITE® 2000 XPi immunoassay systems) compatible with laboratory automation. By consolidating a broad range of infectious disease tests on Siemens automation solutions, laboratory customers benefit from cost efficiencies by reducing laboratory technician time and that needed to produce patient test results.
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For 100 years the innovative ideas from Siemens have helped make Canada a better place. From the Atlantic to Pacific oceans, more than 4,400 employees in Canada work together to provide answers that last in the fields of industry, energy and healthcare, as well as deliver infrastructure solutions for cities. Since it was federally chartered in August of 1912, Siemens has stood for technical achievements, innovation, quality and reliability. Sales for Siemens in Canada in fiscal 2011 (ended September 30), were $3.0 billion CAD. The company has 61 offices and 13 manufacturing/assembly facilities across Canada. For more information please visit www.siemens.ca.

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Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, a global leader in clinical diagnostics, provides healthcare professionals in hospital, reference, and physician office laboratories and point-of-care settings with the vital information required to accurately diagnose, treat, and monitor patients. Our innovative portfolio of performance driven solutions and personalized customer care combine to streamline workflow, enhance operational efficiency, and support improved patient outcomes. For further information please visit: www.siemens.com/diagnostics

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