

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
SPECIMEN CRITERIA AND TESTING INFORMATION
12-12-17**

PARASITOLOGY						
Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Time	Comment	Packing & Shipping	Turn Around Time
Ova & Parasites (OP) CPT 87015, 87209,87210	Stool-unpreserved	Size of 2 cherries (2 tablespoons)	6-16 hours at RT (day of collection)	Unpreserved: 24-48 hours- unacceptable for Trichrome smear; concentrate only; >48 hours unacceptable for concentrate. Duplicate specimens should be collected at least 1 day apart, preferably 2-3 days. Leaking and/or overfilled containers are unacceptable	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	3-4 business days ³
	Stool- PVA and SAF preserved	To red fill line on collection tubes	Several months at RT			
Helminth ID (H) CPT 87169	Proglottid, larvae, adult worm	NA	NA	Place in water, to prevent specimen from drying out	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Prelim < 24 hr; Final: 1-3 business days ³
Microsporidia (M) CPT 82210 (Reflex 87209)	Stool- unpreserved		6-16 hours at RT		FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	3-4 business days ³
	Stool- SAF and Formalin preserved	To red fill line on collection tubes	Several months at RT			
Cyclospora/ Isopora (CI) CPT 87210 (Reflex 87207)	Stool-Formalin preserved	To red fill line on collection tube	Several months at RT		FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	3-4 business days ³

PARASITOLOGY (CONT)						
Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Time	Comment	Packing & Shipping	Turn Around Time
Blood Smear (G) CPT 87015, 87207	Blood with EDTA		<1 hour at RT	Please submit 2 smears (minimum). Malaria: 2 thick and 2 thin smears	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	< 24 hrs STAT testing ³
	Stained or unstained thick and thin blood smears		24 hrs at RT			
Pinworms (P) CPT 87172	Pinworm paddle or scotch tape		RT < 7 days	Stool specimens are unacceptable	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Prelim < 24 hrs; Final: 1-3 business days ³
Arthropod ID (A) CPT 87168	Tick, louse, bed bug, scabies	Entire insect in hard container or ziplock bag kept moist with wetted cotton ball.	Keep cool or refrigerate if possible.	Do not store in alcohol	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Prelim < 24 hrs; Final: 1-4 business days ³

- (1) Dedicated medical courier exemption: When shipped by a dedicated medical courier, patient specimens which are not classified as Category A (e.g. blood for Ebola testing) are not regulated under DOT's Hazardous Materials Regulations. They may be packaged without using specialized packaging system. Place leak proof primary container in a leak proof secondary container with biohazard label (standard zip lock bag with biohazard label and outer sleeve for specimen requisition will suffice). Place the primary and secondary container in a paper bag labeled with our laboratory address and the consignee's address. CULTURES OR CATEGORY A PATIENT SPECIMENS ARE REGULATED AND MUST BE PACKAGED ACCORDINGLY.
- (2) MOT exemption: Clinical specimens (other than Category A) may be transported by in a personal vehicle to directly support a business which is not transportation; health care providers, patients, or laboratories would qualify for transporting clinical specimens as a material of trade exempt from DOT regulations. MOT does not apply to drivers employed in business of transportation (e.g. cab driver, bus driver or contract courier). Primary container must contain less than 0.5 L. Multiple primary containers (<4L total) may be transported in leak proof outer container containing sufficient absorbent material to absorb entire contents of inner packaging. CULTURES CANNOT and CATEGORY A SPECIMENS (E.G. Ebola blood) cannot be transported as material of trade; they must be categorized (e.g. Category A or B) and packaged/labeled accordingly (e.g. PI 602 and 650 respectively).
- (3) Specimens received by 10:00 am will be resulted same day if possible or within 24 hours (excluding weekends & holidays). **If results are required before the next test day STAT testing must be ordered verbally and in writing.**

Quality Assurance

Adherence to the specimen selection, quantity, storage and transportation criteria stated above are critical to ensuring the accuracy and usefulness of diagnostic testing results. **Test requests with information that is missing, incorrect or different from information on specimen and/or specimens submitted to the laboratory that do not meet above specified criteria could result in delayed testing and specimen rejection.** The laboratory will notify submitters upon receipt of specimens that do not meet specified testing criteria. Please contact the laboratory for concerns regarding any quality assurance issues including specimen quality and testing turnaround times.

Abbreviations

CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
Hrs	Hours
ml	milliliter
MOT	Material of Trade
NA	Not applicable
RT	Room temperature
SAF	Sodium acetate-acetic acid-formalin

References

- Koneman, E. W.** 2005. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA.
- Versalovic, J., K. C. Carroll, G. Funke, J. H. Jorgensen, M. L. Landry, and D. W. Warnock (ed.).** 2015. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.