

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

Effective Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023

RAPID MALARIA ANTIGEN SCREEN

Effective Tuesday, September 5, 2023, Memorial Hospital Central and North laboratories will discontinue Rapid Malaria Antigen testing. This test will be replaced by Blood Parasite testing performed at University of Colorado Anschutz laboratory.

BLOOD PARASITE

BLOOD PARASITE	
Lab Test Code	LAB3267
Acceptable Specimen	4mL EDTA (purple top), whole blood
Specimen Preparation	4-6 thick blood smears, 4-6 peripheral blood smears unstained and unfixed
Specimen Stability	For optimum blood parasite detection and speciation, slides must be made from EDTA blood within one hour of collection.
Performed	Sunday through Saturday
CPT	87207

- Blood Parasite test consists of a slide examination for *Plasmodium* (malaria) species, *Babesia*, *Trypanosomes*, and microfilariae. It may include a Malaria antigen test if not performed by the client.
- Include patient's travel history, primary or admitting diagnosis, and/if there is a history of Malaria with the order.
- For *P. falciparum* and *Babesia* species only, the percent of parasitized RBCs is used to determine the type of treatment given to a patient, and to assess the therapeutic response. Submit a second specimen at least 8 hours after treatment has been initiated to monitor parasitemia levels.
- If testing for trypanosomes or microfilariae, contact Infectious Disease Service for consultation of optimal collection times.

For any questions about this test update, please contact:

Angelina King, MLS (ASCP), Laboratory Manager, Angelina.King@uchealth.org