

UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER LABORATORIES

Malaria and Babesia Blood Smear Reporting Updates

8/27/26

Effective Tuesday, September 8, UPH-Meriter Laboratories will be updating the reporting methods for Malaria and Babesia blood smear results. Due to the morphologic similarities between *Plasmodium* and *Babesia* species, positive smear results will be reported as **Presumptive Positive** and will be accompanied by a comment recommending actions for follow up. The recommendation provided by the lab will vary depending on whether PCR testing was ordered concurrently by the provider.

Malaria Smear, Blood					
EPIC EAP	SQ CODE	CPT Code	RESULTING		Reference Range
			Current	New	
LAB883	MALARI	87207	Parasites Present: • Positive • Percent of infected RBCs reported No Parasites Present: • None Seen	Parasites Present: • Presumptive Positive • Recommend confirmation by Malaria Species Identification by PCR (LAB4381) OR Correlate with concurrent PCR testing. • Percent of infected RBCs reported No Parasites Present: • None Seen	None Seen

Babesia Smear, Blood					
EPIC EAP	SQ CODE	CPT Code	RESULTING		Reference Range
			Current	New	
LAB5048	BAB	87207	Parasites Present: • Positive • Percent of infected RBCs reported No Parasites Present: • None Seen	Parasites Present: • Presumptive Positive • Recommend confirmation by Babesia Species by PCR (LAB5342) OR Correlate with concurrent PCR testing. • Percent of infected RBCs reported No Parasites Present: • None Seen	None Seen

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If you have any questions, please call the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Laboratories Client Services Department at 608-417-6529 or 1-800-236-0465.