

Specimen Submission Requirements for the Bacteriology-Parasitology Section, Medical Microbiology Branch

**Test: Parasite Identification**

**Specimen receiving:** Specimens for parasite identification will be accepted from Monday thru Friday by 3:30 p.m. , except on holidays.

**Turn around Time:** 7-14 days on average, longer if specimen is referred to CDC.

**Specimen requirements:**

- 1) A trichrome-stained slide or a vial of non-mercuric chloride fixative (SAF) containing a stool specimen from which a trichrome-stained smear may be prepared.
- 2) Malarial Identification: Thick and thin Giemsa-stained blood smears, submitted in cardboard slide holders for referral to CDC.
- 3) Nematodes may be placed in 70% ethanol in a screw-capped jar or a plastic centrifuge tube. Trematodes and Cestodes (Tapeworm proglottids) should be placed in normal saline and refrigerated.
- 4) Arthropods may be secured in a small jar with a lid.
- 5) Only clear cellulose tape is to be used for Pinworm collection and placed with the adhesive side to a glass slide and secured in a cardboard container.
- 6) All specimens should be properly labeled with legible patient identifiers. Please include the name of the “suspected parasite”.

**Specimen transport:** Specimens in fixative may be transported at ambient temperature while unfixed specimens in saline should be sent refrigerated with cold packs. All specimens must be transported in such a way as to prevent spillage or cracking during transport and sealed with parafilm to avoid leakage.

**Requisition form:** All specimens must be submitted with a completed 81.3 test requisition form. Malaria identification also requires a CDC “Malaria Surveillance Form” completed by the attending physician in addition to the 81.3 submission form.

**Normal value:** Varies per specimen. Minimum: Genus identification. Species name will be reported when possible.

Specimen Submission Requirements, Bacteriology-Parasitology Section, Med Micro Br.

**Result notification:** Final laboratory reports will be forwarded to both the submitter and the Disease Investigation Branch (DIB). Special specimens may be faxed to the submitter and/or to DIB as is necessary.

**Comments:** Some parasites may require referral to CDC for confirmation.  
Some arthropods may be referred to the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health or to the University of Hawaii, Department of Tropical Medicine.

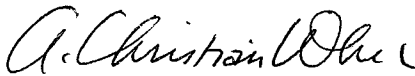
**Unacceptable conditions:**

- a) Dried up specimens (exception; stained trichrome stains)
- b) Leaking containers
- c) Unpreserved specimens (exception: Tapeworms)
- d) Specimens contaminated with oil, barium or urine.
- e) Multiple specimens (more than one in 24 hours)
- f) Illegible or incomplete requisition forms (for example, malaria smears with no "Malaria Investigation Form")
- g) Specimens without matching requisition forms.

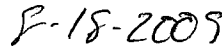
**Test location:** State of Hawaii Dept. of Health Laboratories  
Medical Microbiology Branch  
Bacteriology-Parasitology Section  
2725 Waimano Home Road, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor  
Pearl City, HI 96782

**Contact information:** Phone: (808) 453-6706  
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Approved:



A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.



Date

Date: June 7, 2007