



Memorandum

Date: February 17, 2015
To: Calgary and Rural Zone Physicians
From: Calgary Laboratory Services
Re: Transition of Testing for Stool for Ova & Parasites

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective **March 10, 2015**, the Giardia/Cryptosporidium screen performed by Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) will transition from the current enzyme immunoassay (EIA) to a more sensitive Protozoal PCR method that will detect 4 parasites: *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium* species, *Entamoeba histolytica*, and *Dientamoeba fragilis*. Domestically, these four pathogens comprise a significant majority of parasitic infections that are encountered in clinical practice. This PCR method is more sensitive and encompasses a greater number of targets than the EIA currently used. As a result of this greater sensitivity, it is no longer necessary to order repeat specimens (e.g. "stool O&P x 3") in order to rule out the presence of one of these four organisms - a single test is sufficient.

The full microscopic examination of stool for Ova & Parasites will only be performed in patients that are high-risk for other gastrointestinal parasites, that is, if a patient history of bloody stool, eosinophilia, immunocompromised status, or travel from or residence in an endemic area is provided on the new history form (MI6011). Please find a sample form attached.

If a history form is not received, or travel/residency is not from an endemic area, only the Protozoal PCR to detect *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium* species, *Entamoeba histolytica*, and *Dientamoeba fragilis* will be performed.

Refer to CLS Medical Ordering Guidelines for Suspected Infectious Diarrhea:

<http://www.calgarylabservices.com/education-research/medical-professionals-education/medical-interpretation-guidelines/infectious-diarrhea.aspx>

Action Required:

Prior to March 10, 2015

- Order the new version of the Microbiology requisition REQ9021MI 20150130 form #CAL200-24
<http://www.calgarylabservices.com/files/CLSFForms/PUR7507.pdf>
- When you have a sufficient supply of new requisitions on hand, **discard** all previous versions of the requisition.
- Order the new Stool Ova & Parasite History Form MI6011
<http://www.calgarylabservices.com/files/CLSFForms/MI6011.pdf>

After March 10, 2015

- Dependant on patient history, order either the Protozoal PCR for *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Dientamoeba*, *E. histolytica* or Full Ova & Parasites (O&P) on the new version of the Microbiology requisition REQ9021MI 20150130.
- If the Full Ova & Parasite (O&P) is ordered, a Stool Ova & Parasite History Form MI6011 must be completed and attached to the requisition and accompany the stool.

Protozoal PCR testing will be performed three times a week.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Microbiologist On Call @ 403-770-3757

This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Leland Baskin, VP Medical Director, Calgary Laboratory Services, ph: 403-770-3758