

**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
2201 COURAGE DRIVE, MS 9-200
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



Test	Blood parasites
Test Description	Microscopic analysis for the detection of parasites, including protozoans and helminths, in blood samples. The testing establishes the presence of <i>Plasmodium</i> species (malaria), <i>Babesia</i> species, <i>Trypanosoma</i> species, and microfilariae. Enumeration of parasitemia rates for <i>Plasmodium</i> species is performed. Because low levels of some blood parasites can rapidly increase to cause fatal infection, blood parasite examination is a test that is performed immediately on receipt of specimens. Consequently, submitters are requested to call in advance for blood parasite testing.
Acceptable specimens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venous blood in a vacuum tube containing anticoagulant (preferably EDTA) Also, the submission of two thick and two thin blood smears slides is preferred to reduce testing preparation time. <i>Note: Pre-stained slides or non-stained slides are acceptable.</i>
Required information	Travel history is required. Information on patient symptoms, date of onset, and hospitalization status is requested.
Timing of collection	Whenever possible, specimens should be collected before treatment is initiated. Since the degree of parasitemia may fluctuate, multiple smears might be needed, and these can be taken at 8- to 12-hour intervals over 2 to 3 days. If a filarial infection is suspected, the optimal collection time for demonstrating microfilariae is: <i>Loa loa</i> (10 AM to 2 PM), <i>Brugia</i> or <i>Wuchereria</i> (at night, after 8 PM), <i>Mansonella</i> (any time), and <i>Onchocerca</i> (any time).
Specimen storage	Thick and thin blood smears can be kept at room temperature; these slides should be dry before placing them in a slide holder. Venous blood should be stored refrigerated at 2–8°C.
Specimen shipping	Thick and thin blood smears should be shipped at room temperature, and venous blood specimens should be shipped refrigerated (and received within 24 hours of collection).
CPT code	87207
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule
Result availability (turnaround time)	Results are typically available within 1 business day after specimen receipt.