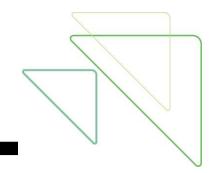


## TECHNICAL BULLETIN



## **⊠NEW TEST ⊠TEST CHANGE**

NOTIFICATION DATE: April 19, 2019 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 25, 2019

## **Change in Testing for Blood Parasites** *Babesia microti* PCR Blood Parasites, travel - associated Parasitemia

Northwell Health Laboratories announces new testing methodologies for the detection of *Babesia microti*, malaria, and other blood parasites. The previous test "Blood Parasites", which provided broad-spectrum detection of all blood-related parasites, will be replaced by three separate test orders in order to shorten turnaround time and increase sensitivity/specificity for certain targets:

The new test order "*Babesia microti* **PCR**" is the recommended test for all suspected cases of babesiosis. This test was developed by Northwell Health Laboratories and approved by NYS – Department of Health. This assay provides **significantly faster turnaround time** and **more accurate results** than traditional blood smears.

**IMPORTANT:** "*Babesia microti* **PCR**" does **NOT** provide information about the parasitic burden. If quantification is required, "Parasitemia" should be ordered with "*Babesia microti* **PCR**", or on known *Babesia* positive patients.

The test order **"Blood parasites, travel associated"** includes detection and identification of pathogens that can typically only be acquired through travel to endemic areas, such as *Plasmodium* spp. (malaria), microfilaria, trypanosoma, and other blood parasites. Parasitemia will automatically be performed on *Plasmodium* spp. positive samples. The test order **"Parasitemia"** is NOT needed.

DO NOT ORDER "Blood parasites, travel - associated" IF THERE IS NO PERTINENT	Γ
TRAVEL HISTORY	

Test name	Specimen Requirements	Test Code	PDM	СРТ	TAT
Babesia microti PCR	Lavender tube	P Bab PCR	1762069	87798	24h
Blood Parasites, travel - associated	Lavender tube	P Bld	6201281	87207	24h
Parasitemia*	Lavender tube	P parasitemia	1762068	87207	24h

\*For quantification of *Babesia microti* only

**Specimen requirements:** For both orderable tests, a dedicated whole blood specimen is required (lavender tube). **Availability:** Mon – Sun.

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (516) 719-1100.