

☒NEW TEST ☒TEST CHANGE

NOTIFICATION DATE: 09/25/2025

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/2025

Blood Parasites Testing Updates

Malaria PCR (MALPCR)

Blood Parasite Exam (P Blood)

Percent Parasitemia (Percent parasitemia)

On the effective date, Northwell Health Laboratories will update the testing for blood parasites.

The changes include the following:

- Creation of a new test, **Malaria PCR**, a real-time PCR for the detection of all disease-causing *Plasmodium* species in humans.
- Discontinuation of the previous test, Blood Parasite Examination as a clinician orderable.

Ordering guidelines/options

- Order the new **Malaria PCR** test if a patient has a travel history compatible with malarial infection
- Order the existing **Babesia PCR** test if *Babesia* species is suspected.
- If a blood parasite other than *Plasmodium* species or *Babesia* species is suspected, Northwell Health Laboratories must be contacted to order and perform a **Blood Parasite Exam**.
- For patients with prior known-positive malaria or Babesia PCR results, a test order for **Percent Parasitemia** (previously known as Parasitemia, Blood) can be placed on subsequently collected samples for determination of parasite burden and monitoring successful response to treatment.

Specimens testing positive by **Malaria PCR** will automatically reflex to **Blood Parasite Exam**, which includes a rapid Plasmodium antigen test, Giemsa stain for species-level parasite identification and **Percent Parasitemia** (previously known as Parasitemia, Blood).

All specimens testing negative by **Malaria PCR** are considered final negative results.

Test Name	New Malaria PCR	New Blood Parasite Exam	New Percent Parasitemia	Current Babesia PCR
Specimen Requirements:	Whole Blood	Whole Blood	Whole Blood	Whole Blood
Submission Container/Tube:	Lavender EDTA tube	Lavender EDTA tube	Lavender EDTA tube	Lavender EDTA tube
Specimen Volume*	2 mL minimum	2 mL minimum	2 mL minimum	2 mL minimum
Specimen Stability:	24 hours at room temperature, 7 days, refrigerated	24 hours at room temperature, 7 days, refrigerated	24 hours at room temperature, 7 days, refrigerated	24 hours at room temperature, 7 days, refrigerated
Specimen Transport:	Room temperature	Room temperature	Room temperature	Room temperature
Reference Range:	No Plasmodium species Detected	No Blood Parasites Seen	No Blood Parasites Seen	No Babesia Species Detected
Test Order Cerner:	MALPCR	P Blood *Lab orderable only	Percent Parasitemia	BAB PCR
Test Order SCM:	Malaria PCR	Blood Parasite Exam	Percent Parasitemia	Babesia species PCR, Bld
Test Order EPIC:	Plasmodium species (Malaria), Molecular Detection	Blood Parasite Examination	Percent Parasitemia	Babesia species, Molecular Detection
Computer Interface Code:	PDM# 257133	PDM#2 57134A, PDM# 257134B PDM# 257134C	PDM# 257134B PDM# 257134C	PDM# 227299
CPT Code:	87798	87207 87899 87015	87207 87015	87798

*All tests above can be completed with 1 filled Lavender EDTA tube