

Labstract – September 2007

Parasitology - Clinical Information Requirements

To Health Care Providers:

As of October 1, 2007, all specimens sent to Ontario Public Health Laboratories (OPHL) for diagnostic parasitology services are to be accompanied by an OPHL General Test Requisition with complete clinical information, including recent travel. Complete clinical information facilitates appropriate triage and prioritization of specimens based on clinical information.

Under the section “Clinical Information”:

- Check all boxes that apply.
- In the “Other” category include other symptoms or conditions such as:
 - HIV or immunosuppression due to cancer/chemotherapy, solid organ or bone-marrow transplant, autoimmune disease, or immunosuppressing drugs such as prednisone;
 - Critical illness including admission to a critical or intensive care unit;
 - Eosinophilia;
 - Previously known parasitic infection.
- Note under “Recent Travel”, if the patient is a new immigrant, refugee, or returned traveler, it is imperative that the foreign country be identified.

The provision of complete clinical information allows us to triage the specimens for best patient care.

For further information:

- Contact the PHOL Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or toll free at 1-877-604-4567, or via email at customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca
- For the PHOL Specimen Collection Guide and previous Labstracts, refer to <http://www.oahpp.ca/services/public-health-laboratories.html>
- To subscribe to labstracts, please e-mail labstracts@oahpp.ca