

## Labstract – September 2011

# Ova and parasites - A change to the Public Health Laboratories (PHL) stool collection kit - Original date issued December 2010

To Health Care Providers using PHL kits:

Effective December 1, 2010, new stool ova and parasite kits for patients at high risk of parasitic infection, such as returning travelers (e.g. from parts of Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and South America), recent immigrants and refugees, immunocompromised persons (eg HIV-infected, on chemotherapy, post single organ or bone marrow transplants), pregnant women, those with symptoms of parasitic infection, and the elderly were made available from the Public Health Ontario (PHO) PHL.

### Please Note:

- It is not our intent to change specimen referral patterns for testing. If you currently refer your samples to community laboratories, please continue to use their kits and instructions.

PHL utilizes traditional microscopy for the detection of stool ova and parasites. There are no changes to the existing test menu at this time and you must continue to submit the SAF container.

### What's new?

For patients at high risk for parasitic infection, PHL requests the collection of stool in an additional container with no preservative to allow for testing by enzyme linked immunoassay (EIA) for:

- Differentiation of *Entamoeba histolytica* and *Entamoeba dispar* and
- To support method development and validate a new PCR method, which will be used for confirmatory testing or more rapid or improved species identification when needed.

The new kit will:

- Be identical to the previous one except that additional containers with NO PRESERVATIVE (white top) are included.
- Provide detailed instructions on how to fill the containers – these are included with each kit.
- Require collection of stool from three separate bowel movements to obtain best results.

The container with no preservative (white top) should be sent either at room temperature (if within 72 hours) or frozen at -20°C if more than 72 hours of storage time is required prior to submission.

## **Ova and parasites - A change to the Public Health Laboratories (PHL) stool collection kit** (Continued)

### **New services provided by PHO that can assist you**

You can now receive results as soon as they are released by the medical technologists by subscribing to Autofax. To subscribe to Autofax or if you have any concerns, please contact our customer service department toll free at 1-877-604-4567 or 416-235-6556.

### **For further information:**

- PHO Customer Service Centre toll free at **1-877-604-4567** or **416-235-6556**
- For the PHO Specimen Collection Guide and previous Lababstracts, refer to <http://www.oahpp.ca/services/public-health-laboratories.html>
- To subscribe to future PHO Lababstracts, please e-mail [lababstracts@oahpp.ca](mailto:lababstracts@oahpp.ca)