

REVISED TEST UPDATE

Stool Parasitology Testing

UVMCC

Effective 4/23/25, UVMCC will begin offering a new algorithmic approach to **stool parasitology** to optimize patient testing and laboratory stewardship. The new panel, **Parasite Screen, Stool**, includes *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*. All parasitology tests will require only a single container - the **ECOFIX Stool Transport Vial Kit**.



Fig 1. **ECOFIX** containers (green cap) for all stool parasitology testing are the **only** acceptable collection container for the Parasite Screen, Stool and the Ova and Parasite Exam, Stool. **Total Fix** containers are no longer acceptable.

A review of parasitology testing received from across Vermont and upstate New York in the last 12 months was performed. This data shows that *Giardia* represents an overwhelming majority of positive specimens. Ova & Parasite (O&P) exams at UVMCC have an overall positivity rate of ~2.0%, which drops to ~0.4% in specimens that have had a positive antigen test for *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*; nearly all positive O&Ps exams are due to *Giardia*. Therefore, performing the additional tests in the O&P exam are not only redundant but also an additional cost for patients.

Based on this data, the historic O&P exam will be discontinued. When an order for **Parasite Screen, Stool is received**, a highly sensitive and specific antigen test for *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, is performed. O&P requests received after 4/14/25 will be re-ordered as the Parasite Screen, Stool. The new Parasite Screen, Stool order includes these ask at order entry questions (AOE) for the clinician, that illustrate if the patient has a compelling clinical history that may require additional testing.

Is the patient Immunocompromised (Yes/No)?

Recent travel internationally and/or to USA endemic area (Yes/No)?

Known exposure or prior history of helminth or amoeba infection (Yes/No)?

If screening test is negative, is a stool ova and parasite exam desired (Yes/No)?

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If left unanswered, the AOE questions will default to “No”.

In rare circumstances when the parasite screen is negative **AND** the patient has compelling clinical history, an O&P exam **MAY** be indicated and will be performed as a reflex test. To allow results to file, a new test build will also be required for the new O&P exam order.

Identification of helminths or helminth segments remains unchanged.

Updated Test Build Information:

New Orderable	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Order LOINC	CPT Code(s)
Parasite Screen, Stool	LAB17777	LAB17777	FAH6209	48060-8	87015, 87272, 87269
Result Component(s)	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Result LOINC	Notes
Is the patient Immunocompromised (Yes/No)?	115084	OP317	FAH6211	N/A	*AOE
Recent travel internationally and/or to USA endemic area (Yes/No)?	115085	OP318	FAH6212	N/A	*AOE
Known exposure or prior history of helminth or amoeba infection (Yes/No)?	115086	OP319	FAH6213	N/A	*AOE
If screening test is negative, is a stool ova and parasite exam desired (Yes/No)?	115087	OP320	FAH6214	N/A	*AOE
Giardia and Cryptosporidium	12301006652	GICR	FAH5885	48060-8	
Specimen Requirements:					
Container	Specimen	Temperature	Collect/Submit Vol	Min Vol	Stability
EcoFix Vial	Feces	Ambient	Fill EcoFix Vial	1 mL	14 days
Collection Instructions:					

EcoFix Vial Kits are available from Lab Customer Service (802) 847-5121.

1. For inpatients, collect sample in a bedpan, avoiding contamination with urine.
2. In an outpatient setting, collect specimen in Stool Collection Commode or have the patient put plastic wrap over toilet bowl.
3. Add sample to the fill line indicated on the transport vial (approx. 5 mL). Do not add stool above the fill line.
4. All vials should be inverted several times so the sample and preservative are well mixed.

**Recommended responses: Yes, No*

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

111 Colchester Avenue | Mail Stop: 233MP1 | Burlington, Vermont 05401

PHONE LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE

(802) 847-5121 | (800) 991-2799



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New Order for Lab Use Only	Epic Code	Atlas Code (not ord)	Mayo Test ID (not ord)	Order LOINC	CPT Code(s)
Ova and Parasite Exam, Stool	LAB17778	LAB17778	FAH6210	10704-5	87209, 87177
Result Component(s)	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Result LOINC	Notes
Parasite	12301006644	LAB17778	FAH5908	10704-5	
Specimen Requirements:					
Container	Specimen	Temperature	Collect/Submit Vol	Min Vol	Stability
EcoFix Vial	Feces	Ambient	Fill EcoFix Vial	1 mL	14 days

Orderable to be Discontinued	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID
Giardia and Cryptosporidium Antigen Detection	LAB1319	GICR	FAH5884
Ova & Parasite Examination	LAB955	OP	FAH5907

Please see the attached testing algorithm for details.

For questions or concerns regarding these changes, please contact Dr. Christopher Attaway (Christopher.Attaway@UVMHealth.org).

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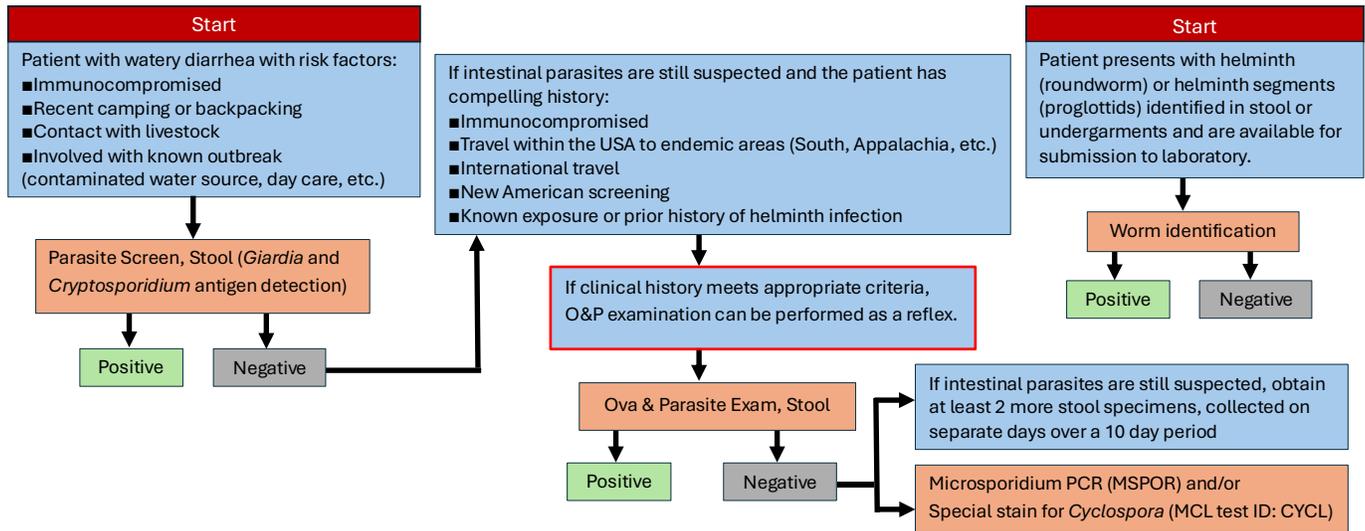
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Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Parasitology Update



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