



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Parasitology

Test Name: Ova and Parasites

Test Includes: Concentration and Trichrome Staining	
<i>Reporting</i>	
Results Available: 7 days	Contact Number: (650) 573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
Method: Direct microscopic examination of concentration and trichrome stain.	
Turnaround Time: 7 days	Reference Range: No parasites seen
Limitations: The ability to detect parasites is limited by the quality of the specimen collection.	Interpretation: Negative test results indicate no detectable parasites in specimen.
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
Specimen Collection: Specimens should be collected during acute phase of illness if possible. Specimens should be placed in PVA and formalin transport vials immediately. Specimens should not be collected from patients who develop symptoms after three days in hospital. Three specimens collected on different days should be submitted.	Sample Type: Feces preserved in PVA and formalin. Adult trematodes and nematodes must be sent in ethyl alcohol.
Volume/Amount Required: Fill vial to fill-line. Do not over fill.	Preferred Specimen: Feces in PVA and formalin.
Collection/Preservation: Collect stool during acute or symptomatic phase of illness if possible.	Storage Instructions: ambient temperature
Causes for Rejection: Specimen too old; leaky containers	Sample Container: PVA and formalin transport vials; sterile specimen container.
Sample Test Kit: PVA and formalin vials	Availability: Test performed Monday-Friday
Diagnostic Information: Cannot differentiate between <i>E. histolytica</i> (pathogen) and <i>E. dispar</i> (non-pathogen). Reported as <i>E. histolytica/E. dispar</i> group. Non-pathogenic amoebae are reported.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
Request Form: Standard Clinical Test Request form or through computer interface	Specimen Handling: Body fluids handled using universal precautions.
Transport Temperature: ambient temperature	Shipping Requirements: Triple-contained and packaged to meet requirements of DOT, USPS, PHS and IATA for shipping of clinical specimens.



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<i>Billing</i>	
CPT Code(s): 87177, 88312	Fees: \$50.00
Effective Date: July 1, 2008	