

## OVA AND PARASITE (O&P) EXTENDED TURNAROUND TIME

April 7, 2023

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) is experiencing an extended turnaround time (TAT) for Ova and Parasite (O&P) test results. The TAT is now ranging from 5-7 days; previously TAT was ranging from 3-5 days.

**IMPACTED TEST: OVA AND PARASITE (O&P) EXAMINATION (LAB955)**  
TAT: 5-7 days

**ALTERNATIVE TEST: CRYPTOSPORIDIUM/GIARDIA by EIA (LAB10100)**  
TAT: 1-2 day

*Reason for TAT delay:* Limited availability of technical resources to perform the manual O&P examination.

*Expected resolution:* Targeting resolution to be in the fall of this year.

*Alternative test option:* If appropriate, we recommend providers consider targeted antigen stool tests.

### GUIDANCE FOR STOOL PARASITE TESTING

**Parasitic GI infection** usually causes diarrhea last more than 7 days (Chronic symptoms).

Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)

- “Travelers with *diarrhea lasting 14 days or longer* should be evaluated for intestinal parasitic infections (strong, moderate).”
- IDSA website: [2017 Infectious Diseases Society of America Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Infectious Diarrhea \(idsociety.org\)](https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/2017-infectious-diseases-society-of-america-clinical-practice-guidelines-for-the-diagnosis-and-management-of-infectious-diarrhea)

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

- Do not order a comprehensive stool ova and parasite (O&P) microscopic exam on patients presenting with:
  - diarrhea less than seven days’ duration
  - no immunodeficiency
  - no history of living in or traveling to endemic areas where gastrointestinal parasitic infections are prevalent
- If symptoms of infectious diarrhea persist for seven days or longer, start with antigen testing. Consider a full O&P microscopic exam if other testing is negative.
- The comprehensive O&P microscopic exam often requires submission of multiple stool samples, it is labor intensive, requires significant expertise to perform, and typically has lower sensitivity when compared to many other tests now available.
- ASCLS website: <https://www.choosingwisely.org/clinician-lists/ascls-do-not-order-a-comprehensive-stool-ova-and-parasite-op-microscopic-exam-on-patients-presenting-with-diarrhea-less-than-seven-days-duration-who-have-no-immunodeficiency-or-no-histor/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100