



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
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## Test Order

### Malaria Molecular Identification (Malaria Real-Time PCR)

Synonym(s)	<i>Plasmodium</i> for Identification, <i>Plasmodium</i> Species Identification
Methodology	Real-time PCR (for <i>Plasmodium</i> /malaria identification)
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	Whole blood with EDTA. <b>Also required: thick and thin blood smears (stained or unstained* with Giemsa stain) on glass microscopy slides per CCR, Title 17, Section 2505. *Note: for unstained slides, thin smears must be methanol-fixed prior to submission.</b>
Transport / Collection Medium	Collect a 1-5 ml blood sample in Vacutainer® EDTA tubes prior to anti-parasitic therapy, shipped on cold packs (not frozen); smears in slide transport container.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Store whole blood refrigerated (2-8°C) until transport, and submit sample within 5 days of collection; smears can be refrigerated (2-8°C) or stored at ambient temperature.
Minimum Volume Required	500 µl whole blood for malaria PCR
Additional Collection Instructions	N/A
Additional Required Information	<b>Patient travel history, patient clinical history, physician's full name and contact number, onset of symptoms, county of residence.</b>
Send Out?	No
Turnaround Time	1-3 business days
Testing Restrictions	
Requisition Form(s)	<a href="http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1036">http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1036</a>
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	<p>This PCR test is to be used in conjunction with microscopic examination of blood smears, as it does not determine the level of malarial parasitemia. In addition, this PCR test does not test for the presence of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> or <i>Babesia</i> species DNA. Whole blood negative for <i>Plasmodium</i> species on this assay does not rule out the possibility of infection with <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> or <i>Babesia</i> species. Thick and thin smear examination will be used in conjunction with this assay to detect the presence of other blood parasites.</p> <p>This PCR test was developed and its performance characteristics were determined by the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory. It has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has determined that such approval is not necessary and results should not be regarded as investigational or for research.</p>

Updated 7/26/23