

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

## Ova, Cysts and Parasites

As part of our quality improvements for the Parasitology service within the Microbiology department at MFT, we have outlined the current testing requirements in order to provide an efficient service for the investigation of ova, cysts and parasites (OCP) from samples other than blood.

Our aim is to clarify the requesting and selection of appropriate enteric samples for the examination of ova, cysts and parasites.

Pathogen	Sample required	Comment
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> sp. & <i>Giardia lamblia</i>	Faeces	<u>There is NO NEED to request OCP</u> All enteric samples for bacterial culture will automatically be tested for these.
Other parasitic infestations (other than <i>Cryptosporidium</i> sp. & <i>Giardia lamblia</i> )	3 faecal samples over a period of 10 days	<u>OCP investigation must be requested</u> Samples labelled and dated:- 1of3, 2of3 and 3of3. <u>Information required:-</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign travel history</li> <li>• Blood eosinophil count</li> <li>• Duration of diarrhoea</li> <li>• Presence/absence of abdominal symptoms</li> <li>• Evidence of malabsorption</li> </ul>
Threadworm. ( <i>E. vermicularis</i> ova.)	Perianal Swab in saline	Rotate a saline moistened swab around the anus of the child first thing in the morning.
Bilharzia ( <i>Schistosoma haematobium</i> )	Urine	Sample collected between 10am and 2pm. Alternatively a 24hr collection of terminal samples of urine may be obtained.
Microsporidia	Faeces	Modified trichrome is not a test the laboratory performs and is referred to another laboratory. This test should be specifically requested on the request form of after discussion with a Microbiologist.
Worms seen in stool	Worm	Please send actual worm seen in a universal container
If any other types of samples require testing, or other parasite investigations required, please contact the		

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Microbiology department on 0161 276 6717.

If amoebic dysentery is suspected and clinical advice needed please  
tel 0161 276 6333

On occasions, we may need to refer samples to a reference laboratory for specialised testing procedures and further samples may be necessary. (<https://mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/other-departments/laboratory-medicine/manchester-medical-microbiology-partnership/referral-laboratories/>)



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**(Last updated December 2020)**