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Re: Malaria in the United States

The Pathology Lab would like to inform you of the importance of rapid testing for suspected malaria cases. Recent reports indicate the presence of malaria (Plasmodium vivax) in Texas and Florida, making it crucial to remain vigilant and ensure early detection and treatment.

If you encounter patients exhibiting symptoms suggestive of malaria, refer them to the lab for the following testing options.

INITIAL TESTING

- **Test Code 4136** Malaria Films- (Same day turnaround time), Whole Blood Purple top, Refrigerate 7 days.
  This test is performed in-house.

REFLEX TESTING

- ***Test Code LC139475** Plasmodium species, PCR- (4-5 day turnaround time)
  This test is sent to a Reference Lab. Whole Blood Purple top, Refrigerate for 14 days. Intended to be used as an aid in identifying species for Plasmodium sp. If positive, it will reflex to additional tests to identify the species.
  *** Test Code LC139475** will be performed to help identify the Plasmodium species when **Test Code 4136** is positive.

Patients on treatment for severe malaria should have one set of blood smears (thick and thin smears) performed on admission and every 12-24 hours until a negative result is reported. See the following algorithm link from the CDC for guidance on testing and treatment.
https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/resources/pdf/Malaria_Managment_Algorithm_202208.pdf

We will promptly communicate the test results for patient management using your current reporting methods. If malaria is confirmed, we will report the case to the local health authorities in accordance with established protocols.

If you have any questions, contact Nicho Bourque at 337.312.1280 or nbourque@thepathlab.com.