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# Physician Alert



## CLINICAL PRACTICE CHANGE

**Date:** March 12, 2013

**To:** To all physicians and nursing units at sites who submit specimens to the DSM Clinical Microbiology lab at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) site

**From:** Dr. Michelle Alfa, Medical Director, Clinical Microbiology Discipline, DSM  
*Michelle Alfa*  
Dr. Paul Van Caesele, Medical Director, Cadham Provincial Laboratory  
*Paul Van Caesele*

**Re:** **IMPORTANT CHANGE in specimen submission for Ova & Parasite (O&P) testing**

### TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

**Effective April 2, 2013, all O&P testing (previously done at HSC) will be done at Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL). A CPL requisition must be used for all samples submitted for O&P testing. Sites will need to order their own specimen collection containers with SAF fixative.**

### **Issue:**

Historically samples submitted to HSC Clinical Microbiology for Ova & Parasite (O&P) testing were processed on site. Because of issues in regards to retaining expertise in the interpretation of this type of testing, a decision has been made to transfer the work to CPL. CPL does the majority of O&P testing for the province.

### **Submitting stool for O&P:**

Samples submitted for O&P testing should be submitted using a CPL requisition. Effective April 2, 2013, please ensure CPL requisitions are completed instead of a DSM Clinical Microbiology requisition. Containers with SAF preservative for O&P stool collection are available through MDA (Order number; SAP#017419) or through WRHA logistics. CPL has indicated that due to workflow design, they may be required to reject specimens submitted on an incorrect requisition. We very much appreciate your help in ensuring the correct requisition is completed to reduce unnecessary delays or the need for repeat sample collection.

### **Result reporting for O&P:**

Please note that the reporting process will also change in that the reports will be sent as per the usual process used at CPL. For the HSC site this means that the results for O&P tests will no longer be available in the RTS system. Results will be sent as a hard copy report (similar to all other test results for samples tested at CPL) or available soon on eChart. All inquiries regarding these tests/results must be directed to CPL as the HSC Clinical Microbiology lab cannot access these results.

### **Transport for O&P specimens:**

Sites that currently submit O&P specimens to HSC that have existing direct runs going to CPL, should include any samples for O&P (with a CPL requisition) in these runs. If no direct runs occur from a site to CPL, the O&P samples can continue to be submitted to the HSC Clinical Microbiology lab and they will be re-directed to CPL.

If you have any questions, please contact either Dr. M. Alfa (204-237-2105) or Dr. Paul Van Caesele (204-945-6456).