NEW YORK STATE PARASITOLOGY PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

October 6, 2015

Laboratories Holding a Permit in Parasitology - Blood Smears Only

Our records indicate that your laboratory holds a 2014-2015 Permit in Parasitology - Blood Smears Only. This category is applicable to labs that examine patient specimens (blood slides) for parasites.

Enclosed please find five stained, methanol-fixed blood smears labeled 15B-K through 15B-O. These specimens should be examined for all blood parasites. Please handle the specimens with care as we have only a very small number of replacement samples.

Limit your identification of the five test specimens to those parasites listed in the drop-down menus on the Electronic Proficiency Testing Reporting System’s (EPTRS) result entry page. If a particular test is not performed in your laboratory, please enter “Test Not Performed” as your result. Please enter “No Parasites Seen” to indicate a negative result. If desired, a worksheet may be printed from EPTRS. Click on “Enter Results” at the bottom of the Event Menu page, and then click on the button labeled “Print Optional Worksheet” located in the lower right hand corner.

The enclosed instructions for completing the exam, a glossary, and other useful resources are available on our website at:

http://www.wadsworth.org/parasitology/category_descriptions.htm

Please inspect the contents at your first opportunity. Laboratories are responsible for notifying the State Laboratory no later than noon, Tuesday, October 13, 2015 to request replacements, if specimens arrive in unsatisfactory condition, or the shipment is incomplete.

Proficiency test results must be submitted electronically (EPTRS) before 5 PM EST Wednesday, October 21, 2015. It is highly recommended that you log into the system the day that you receive your samples to ensure that your HPN account is still active. If your password has been disabled, call 1-866-529-1890. Please note that neither permission nor account issues can be resolved after 5 PM EST.

If you have any questions, please call or email and have your Permanent Facility Identifier (PFI) number available.

Phone: (518) 474-4177
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