

**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
2201 COURAGE DRIVE, MS 9-200
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



Test	Malaria PCR
Test Description	Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the identification of target sequences specific to <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> , <i>Plasmodium vivax</i> , <i>Plasmodium ovale</i> , and <i>Plasmodium malariae</i> in blood specimens with positive or indeterminate smear results. This test is solely intended for speciation of suspected malaria infections, and is not intended to monitor treatment or parasitic clearance.
Acceptable specimens	1. EDTA blood at a minimum volume of 0.2 mL Note: Thick and thin blood smears should always accompany the blood sample, and these will be examined prior to performing a PCR test. Also, travel history, clinical symptoms, and treatment regimen should be provided to aid in laboratory diagnosis.
Timing of specimen collection	Whenever possible, specimens should be collected during febrile illness before treatment is initiated. Since the parasitemia may fluctuate, multiple smears might be needed. These can be taken at 8- to 12-hour intervals for 2 to 3 days.
Specimen storage	EDTA blood specimens are stable when stored at 4°C for a period of approximately 4 months, but may be kept at room temperature for up to 24 hours.
Specimen shipping	EDTA blood should be shipped refrigerated (2–8°C).
CPT code	87798
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule
Result availability (turnaround time)	Results are typically available within 1–2 business days after specimen receipt.