**Parasitic Investigation of Stool Specimens Algorithm**

Patients with watery diarrhea
Risk factors for parasitic infection include:
- AIDS
- ≤5 years old (or contact)
- Camper or backpacker
- Contact with farm animals
- Involved in outbreak
  - Drinking/Recreational water source
  - Day care center

Refer to the algorithm: Laboratory Testing for Infectious Causes of Diarrhea

Patient is:
- A resident of, or visitor to, a developing country
- A resident of an area of Northern America where helmint (worm) infections have been reported with some frequency
- Possible roundworms or tapeworm segments are observed in stool/undergarments (not available for submission)

Possible roundworms or tapeworm segments are identified in stool/undergarments and are available for submission to lab

OAP / Parasitic Examination
If *Strongyloides stercoralis* is suspected, also consider STRNG / Strongyloides Antibody, IgG, Serum.*

**POSITIVE**
No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

If patient has diarrhea

If intestinal parasites are still suspected, obtain at least 2 more stool specimens, collected on separate days over a 10 day period

**NEGATIVE**
No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

**POSITIVE**

PARID / Parasitic Identification

**NEGATIVE**
Object submitted is not a parasite. Consider submitting additional specimens or evaluate for delusional parasitosis

*The primary helmint of concern is *Strongyloides stercoralis*, which is endemic in regions of the rural southern United States (e.g., Appalachia).