

# LABELLING MALARIA BLOOD FILMS

## MALARIA MICROSCOPY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE – MM-SOP-06A

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To describe the recommended procedure for labelling malaria blood films

This procedure is to be modified only with the approval of the national coordinator for quality assurance of malaria microscopy. All procedures specified herein are mandatory for all malaria microscopists working in national reference laboratories, in hospital laboratories or in basic health laboratories in health facilities performing malaria microscopy.

### 2. BACKGROUND

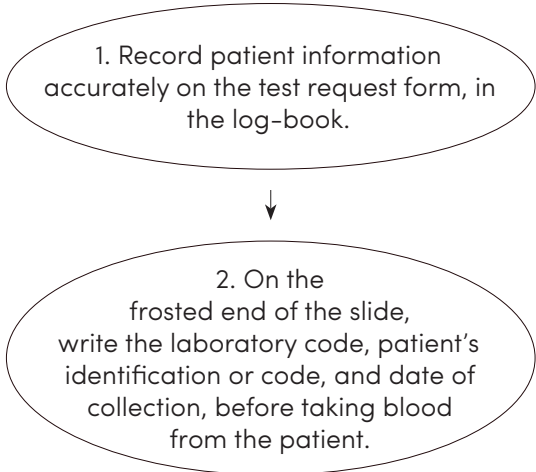
Correct labelling of malaria blood films is important to ensure that the sample and the data correspond to the patient. The integrity of the diagnosis may be compromised by unlabelled or incorrectly labelled blood films. Labelling is important even if only one slide is to be prepared.

Labelling of malaria blood films also facilitates cross-checking of quality control slides from subnational levels at the national reference laboratory.

### 3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

- a lead pencil;
- a glass slide, frosted end, 76 mm x 26 mm, 1.0–1.2 mm thick, and
- a register.

### 4. PROCEDURE

FLOW CHART	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
 <pre> graph TD     A([1. Record patient information accurately on the test request form, in the log-book.]) --&gt; B([2. On the frosted end of the slide, write the laboratory code, patient's identification or code, and date of collection, before taking blood from the patient.])           </pre>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Check the patient information on the test or diagnostic request form, and record it accurately in the log-book.</li> <li>2. Before taking blood from the patient, use a lead pencil to write the following information on the frosted end of the slide: laboratory code, patient identification number or code as recorded in the log-book, date of collection.   <i>Example:</i>  01/001  19/01/2016   See recommended labelling scheme below.   <i>Note – If slides with a frosted end are not available, details can be written on the thicker, blunt end of the thin blood film with a lead pencil. Do not lick the end of the pencil during use.</i> </li> </ol>

## 5. PROCEDURE NOTES

- Labelling should be completed before taking blood from a patient. When labelling slides, avoid touching the blood film with writing instruments.
- Do not use a ballpoint or gel pen to label slides, as the ink will spread when the film is fixed.

## 6. RECOMMENDED LABELLING SCHEME

- Label the slides according to the following scheme:  
*Laboratory code /patient identification number or code*  
*Date of collection (dd/mm/yyyy)*
- Laboratory codes can be assigned to laboratories at the time a national quality assurance system is set up:

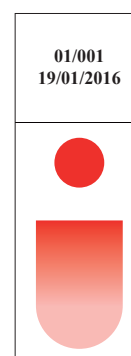
01	Laboratory 1 (e.g. national reference laboratory)
02	Laboratory 2 (e.g. provincial laboratory 1)
03	Laboratory 3 (e.g. provincial laboratory 2)
04	Laboratory 4 (e.g. provincial laboratory 3)
05	Laboratory 5 (e.g. provincial laboratory 4)
0X	Laboratory X (e.g. provincial laboratory X)

For example, in laboratory 1, the first patient tested on 19 January 2016

Slide label is:

01/001

19/01/2016



## 7. REFERENCE

WHO. Basic malaria microscopy. Part I. Learner's guide. Second edition. Geneva: 2010.

## 8. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date (mmm/yyyy)	Version	Comments	Responsible person (First name, last name)
Jan 2016	1	Reviewed and finalized by experts, edited and formatted	Glenda Gonzales, Technical Officer, WPRO

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