

# MALARIA COLLECTION INSTRUCTION

## SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

1. A minimum of 8 peripheral blood smears.
2. These can be used as both the thick and thin preps.
3. Smears may be made by finger stick or from the end of a venipuncture needle with a clot tube attached.
4. EDTA or heparin blood specimens are **not acceptable**.
5. Smears can be made any time although optimum time may be at the time of or immediately after a chill and halfway between paroxysms. Blood collection should be performed immediately upon first suspicion of malaria.



## SMEAR PREPARATION

1. Using clean slides with frosted ends, prepare 8 to 10 smears using blood from a finger stick or from the needle of a syringe or a vacutainer with a clot tube.
2. Make peripheral smear with feathered edge as you would for a Hematology differential.
3. Begin the smear close to the frosted end of the slide and spread toward the end, but not so close to the end that the feathered edge cannot be viewed under the microscope.
4. Label all slides with patient's name, accession # and dated using a pencil. Do not put labels on the slides. Place labels on the slide holders.
5. Allow smears to dry at room temperature for 10 minutes. Protect slides from dust and place them in slide holder once they dry.
6. Collection kits are available from the Microbiology department.