Figure 6. Recommended Malaria Diagnostic Testing Algorithm.

1. Specimen sent to lab for malaria diagnostic testing

   Are expert personnel available on-site?

   Yes  No

   Are there on-call expert personnel?

   Yes  No

   Notify on-call personnel STAT!

   Use rapid diagnostic test

   (+ Test)  (- Test)

   Initiate presumptive therapy

   - Perform thick and thin smears
   - Report results to ordering physician within 4 hours of receiving specimen
   - If parasites present determine percent parasitemia and species identification

   - If parasites present, physician to initiate therapy while awaiting percent parasitemia and species identification
   - If no parasites present, repeat for a total of 3 sets of smears

   If species diagnosis unclear, send specimen to reference laboratory for further testing