

Stool Collection Instructions for Patients

Please read the following instructions carefully in order to avoid costly repeat testing or recollection of samples.

Warning: The liquids in the collection kits are poisonous. Keep them out of reach of children. If ingested, call the Poison Control Center (1-800-272-6477) and follow their instructions.

Ova & Parasite: (Total Fix: black lid container with liquid) Store at room temperature.

- A. Specimens containing dirt, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal compounds, antibiotics, or oil are **unsatisfactory** for parasite examination.
- B. One week must elapse after the administration of barium or bismuth before a specimen can be submitted for ova & parasite examination. Two weeks must elapse after antibiotic therapy before submitting a specimen for ova & parasite.
- C. If the physician orders the samples “times 2 or 3” they must be collected as a **single specimen on 2 or 3 separate days; ideally, they should be collected every other day.**

GI PCR: (green or red lid container with liquid **and** a sterile container from the lab) **Formed stool will be rejected.**

Clostridium Difficile PCR: (sterile container from the lab) **Refrigerate sample. Formed stool will be rejected.**

Stool Culture: (green or red lid containers with liquid) **Refrigerate sample.**

Fecal Occult Blood: Follow the instructions in the FIT kit provided.

Your kit may consist of 2 or 3 containers which contain a liquid, a sterile container, or both.

Collection Instructions:

1. **DO NOT** urinate in the specimen or container.
2. **DO NOT** pass the specimen directly into the collection container that was given to you.
3. **DO NOT** pass the specimen into a toilet. Use a clean dry container such as a urine hat, bedpan, or cool whip container. You may also place a plastic bag or plastic wrap on the toilet.
4. **DO NOT SEND SPECIMEN IN A DIAPER.** Scrape stool specimen (bowel movement) from the diaper surface as soon as possible and place into the vials provided. Avoid contamination with diaper creams and ointments.
5. Open the containers which have liquid inside. Using the collection spoon built into the lid of the container, place small scoops into the container until the liquid level rises to the red line. Try to take specimen from areas of the stool that appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If the stool is formed, sample small amounts from each end and the middle.
6. Twist the cap tightly closed. Shake the bottle vigorously if the container contains liquid.
7. If you have been given a sterile container, place approximately 2 -4 tablespoons of stool into the container using a plastic spoon. If the specimen is runny, pour into the container.
8. **Make sure that all containers are tightly closed.**
9. **Fill in the labels on each container with patient name and date of birth.** Write the date and time of collection on the label and mark the box which most closely resembles the specimen. Return your specimen to the lab as soon as possible. Laboratory hours are Mon-Fri 6:00am - 6:00pm, Sat-Sun 8:00am - 2:00pm.
10. Wash your hands thoroughly. If any liquid from the container comes into contact with your skin or eyes, flush with running water. If irritation develops, consult a physician. If the liquid is swallowed call poison control at 1-800-272-6477.
11. If you have questions, please call the laboratory at 563-589-2431.