

STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Your doctor has asked that you provide the laboratory with a stool specimen. It is important that you follow these instructions carefully when collecting the specimen and bringing it to the lab.

A staff member gives out the following supplies:

- a. Collection “hat” container to fit over the rim of the toilet
- b. Liquid Cary-Blair if culture or O&P Immunoassay ordered
- c. Apacor Parasep SF for complete ova & parasite exam for patient with foreign travel history.
- d. Empty container if other tests are ordered

Patient Instructions:

Do not take antacids, oily laxatives, or antidiarrheal medication unless directly prescribed by your provider.

If the doctor asked you to provide three (3) specimens, wait 48 hours between collections. Be sure to label the container with the date the specimen was collected.

- Place the plastic collection “hat” over the rim of the toilet seat.
- Pass the stool specimen directly into the collection “hat”.
 - Do not urinate in the collection container.
 - Do not take the specimen from the water in the toilet.
- If a culture or O&P by immunoassay is ordered, follow these Liquid Cary-Blair instructions:
 - a. Collect the stool sample in a clean container
 - b. Using the spoon built into the cap, add small samples of stool to the liquid Cary-Blair vial. Bloody or watery portions of the stool, if present, should be selected to place in the Cary-Blair vial. Add sufficient sample to raise the liquid level to the red fill line on the label. Overfilled vials will be rejected.
 - c. Use the spoon to mix the sample.
 - d. Recap the vial making sure the cap is securely fastened.
 - e. Firmly shake the vial until the sample is well mixed.
 - f. Label the container with patient name, date of birth and date & time of collection.
 - g. Transport the sample to the laboratory for testing. Store at 2-8 C.
- If parasitology/ova and parasite testing was ordered, you were given a pack that contains a clear vial with green lid and clear liquid and a green scoop attached to a clear conical vial. Unscrew the lid of the tube containing the liquid and place on flat surface where it will not be easily knocked over. Discard the cap. Pick up a green/clear scoop assembly, holding the smaller tube by the conical end. Use the green scoop to collect:
 - Liquid Stool: two level scoops
 - Solid Stool: one heaped scoop of stoolPlace the scoop assembly containing the stool sample into the tube containing the liquid (DO NOT separate the spoon from the tube attached). Screw together as tightly as possible, until you feel a “click”, that completes the seal. Label sample

NOTE: This liquid is poisonous. Do not drink the liquid and do not let children play with them.

- If other tests are ordered, place the liquid stool or an egg-size portion of semi-formed stool into the empty container and tighten the cap.
- Deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible. If you can not deliver within 1 hour of the time you obtained the specimen, place the sealed containers in the refrigerator until you can get to the lab.