

## STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- Antacids, barium bismuth, anti-diarrhea medication or oily laxatives should not be used prior to collection of the stool specimen.
- Collect the number of samples ordered by the doctor. **DO NOT COLLECT MORE THAN ONE SAMPLE** in a 24 hour period.
- Collect the sample in a dry, wide-mouth plastic container or a large plastic bag which is placed over the toilet seat opening. **DO NOT USE STOOL THAT HAS BEEN PASSED INTO THE TOILET OR WHEN IT IS MIXED (CONTAMINATED) WITH URINE.**
- Select a portion of stool and transfer to the appropriate container. Multiple vials can be filled from one stool sample.
- The amount of stool needed varies depending upon the number of tests ordered. Use at least the amount of stool the size of a walnut for each test requested.
- Parapak® containers are special kits that are used for preserving and transporting stool specimens. **The liquids contained in the kits are poisonous so it is extremely important to handle the containers with care, do not drink the solution and keep the kits out of the reach of children.** The container collection and special handling of each test are listed on the other side of this sheet. The Parapak® containers have a designated fill line. Add enough stool to reach the line but do not over fill.
- Label all the stool containers with your name, date and time of stool collection. Place the containers in a Ziploc bag.
- Refer to instructions on the back of this page for proper specimen storage.

### Questions About Your Test:

If you have any questions about the test, call the doctor that ordered the test or the Pathology Center, **354-4541** or **888-432-8980**.

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Provider Signature

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Date

(over)

## Types of Stool Tests Ordered

Follow the instructions for each stool test that is requested.

### Culture (Enteric Plus® Vial)

- This container has a **green** lid with a spoon connected to the lid.
- Add enough stool to the Parapak® vial to bring the liquid level up to the red “Fill to here” line (about 5 ml.).
- Close the cap tightly on the vial and shake vigorously to mix the stool with the liquid.
- Keep the collected specimen at room temperature.

### Ova & parasites

- There are two containers to use for this test. One container has a **pink lid**, the other vial has a **gray lid**.
- Add enough stool to **each** Parapak® vial to bring the liquid level up to the red “Fill to here” line (about 5 ml.).
- Recap the lid and shake vigorously to mix the test solution with the stool.
- Keep the collected specimen at room temperature.  
If the doctor orders three separate stools for ova and parasites, only one stool should be collected in a 24 hour period. You will need to use one Parapak® Kit (has both the pink and gray containers) each day.

### Clostridium difficile toxin

- Collect the stool in a clean, dry container and refrigerate immediately.
- **FORMED STOOLS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE SPECIMEN MUST BE LIQUID.**
- Refrigerated specimen must be delivered to the laboratory within 24 hours.

### Cryptosporidium Antigen    Giardia Antigen    Fecal WBC

- Immediately add enough fresh stool to a pink lid Parapak® vial (10% Formalin) to bring the liquid level up to the red “Fill to here” line (about 5 ml.). Stool must be placed in 10% Formalin within 30 minutes of collection.
- Keep Formalin Parapak® at room temperature.

### Rotavirus    Adenovirus 40/41

- Collect the stool in a clean, dry container and refrigerate immediately.
- Refrigerated specimen must be delivered as specified by your provider within 48 hours.

## Questions About Your Test:

If you have any questions about the test, call the doctor that ordered the test or the Pathology Center, **354-4541** or **888-432-8980**.