

STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDELINES



Important Note: All specimen containers must be labeled with both the patient's first and last names as well as a second unique identifier such as the patient's medical record number or date of birth.

Ova and Parasites (green top with additive) (EcoFix)

1. This test is used to screen for intestinal parasites.
2. Patient should not use antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication (e.g., Imodium, Pepto-Bismol), or oily laxatives before specimen collection. Specimens contaminated with urine, water, or interfering substances such as barium, bismuth, Metamucil, castor oil, or mineral oil are unacceptable.
3. Add stool to the vial up until it reaches the fill line. Do not fill above this line.
4. Mix well with the attached spoon or a wooden tongue depressor, twist the cap tightly closed, and shake vigorously until the contents are well mixed. MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN. The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.
5. If a second Ova and Parasite test is requested by your physician, collect sample #1 on DAY ONE and collect sample #2 on DAY THREE, at least 48 hours after sample #1. Do not collect both samples on the same day.
6. Store the container at room temperature or refrigerate.
7. Label the container with the date and time of collection, as well as the patient's name and medical record or registration number and date of birth. Return the container to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.

Stool Culture (orange top with additive) (Cary-Blair)

1. This test is used to identify bacterial enteric pathogens (e.g., Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, Vibrio, Yersinia).
2. Patient should not use antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication (e.g., Imodium, Pepto-Bismol), or oily laxatives before specimen collection. Wait 7-10 days following barium enema before collecting stool specimens.
3. Add stool to the vial up until it reaches the fill line. Do not fill above this line.
4. Mix well with the attached spoon or a wooden tongue depressor, twist the cap tightly closed, and shake vigorously until the contents are well mixed. MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN. The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.
5. If this test is ordered in conjunction with an Ova and Parasite, collect the Ova and Parasite (green top) sample #1 on DAY ONE and collect the Stool Culture (orange top) and Ova and Parasite sample #2 on DAY THREE, at least 48 hours after sample #1.
6. Store the container at room temperature and return to the lab within 48 hours of collection.
7. Label the container with the date and time of collection, as well as the patient's name and medical record or registration number and date of birth. Return the container to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.

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Cryptosporidium and Giardia Antigen (orange top with additive) (Cary-Blair)

1. This test is used to screen for Cryptosporidium and Giardia Antigens. If both a routine Ova and Parasite examination and Cryptosporidium and Giardia antigen testing are requested, only the antigen test will be performed unless the patient was seen by GI or ID or both tests are indicated based on relevant patient history.
2. Patient should not use antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication (e.g., Imodium, Pepto-Bismol), or oily laxatives before specimen collection. Wait 7-10 days following barium enema before collecting stool specimens.
3. Add stool to the vial up until it reaches the fill line. Do not fill above this line.
4. Mix well with the attached spoon or a wooden tongue depressor, twist the cap tightly closed, and shake vigorously until the contents are well mixed. MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN. The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.
5. Store the container at room temperature or refrigerated and return to the lab within 48 hours of collection.
6. Label the container with the date and time of collection, as well as the patient's name and medical record or registration number and date of birth. Return the container to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.

Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel (GIPAN) (orange top with additive) (Cary-Blair)

1. This test is for detection of multiple gastrointestinal bacteria, viruses, and parasites. This test is intended for use in patients with diarrhea that began prior to or within three days of hospitalization and there is concern for other etiologies aside from C. difficile.
2. Add stool to the vial up until it reaches the fill line. Do not fill above this line.
3. Mix well with the attached spoon or a wooden tongue depressor, twist the cap tightly closed, and shake vigorously until the contents are well mixed. MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN. The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.
4. Store the container at room temperature or refrigerated and return to the lab within 4 days of collection.
5. Label the container with the date and time of collection, as well as the patient's name and medical record or registration number and date of birth. Return the container to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.

Clostridium difficile (sterile container)

1. This test is used for diagnosis of Clostridium difficile associated diarrhea and pseudomembranous colitis.
2. Collect at least 5 mL of fresh stool and place in a sterile screw-capped container with no preservative.
3. Refrigerate the container and return to the lab as soon as possible within 24 hours of collection.

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4. Collect no more than one sample within a 7-day period.
5. Label the container with the date and time of collection, as well as the patient's name and medical record or registration number and date of birth. Return the container to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.

Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT envelope and FOBT-CHEK Sampling Bottle)

1. This test is used to detect fecal occult blood. It is recommended for use in routine physical exams, monitor for bleeding in patients and screening for colorectal cancer or other lower GI disorders that can cause gastrointestinal bleeding (e.g., diverticulitis, polyps, and Crohn's disease).
2. Open the FIT envelope to see the collection instructions.
3. Read and follow all instructions found under the flap of the outer envelope to properly collect the stool sample.
4. Once the sample is collected it can be mailed in the US Postal Service approved mailing envelope contained in the kit. The sample may also be returned to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.
5. FOBT-CHEK Sampling Bottle without the envelope: The green cap has a probe with a grooved end. Cover the grooved portion of the sample probe completely with stool. Close the sampling bottle by inserting the sample probe and snap green cap on tightly. Do not reopen. Return the sampling bottle to your physician's office or a University of Michigan Health Center Laboratory or Blood Drawing Station.

Questions

Call **800.862.7284** or **mlabs.umich.edu**