

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 identifier such as the patient's medical record number or date of birth. Containers without two identifiers will be rejected.

Ova and Parasite (green top with additive)

1. Stool specimen should not come in contact with urine or water.
2. Add stool to the vial up to the red line using the spoon attached to the lid or a tongue depressor.
3. MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN. The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.
4. 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.
5. Store the container at room temperature or refrigerate.
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.

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

1. Patient should not be taking any anti-diarrhea preparations (e.g., Imodium, Pepto-Bismol) or have had a barium enema within the previous 10 days.
2. Add stool specimen to the transport vial until the liquid reaches the fill line.
3. MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN. The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.
4. 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.
5. Store the container at room temperature or refrigerate 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.

Giardia Antigen or Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel (orange top with additive)(Cary-Blair)

1. Collect a fresh random stool specimen.
2. Add stool specimen to the transport vial until the liquid reaches the fill line.
3. Emulsify specimen thoroughly in transport fluid. (MIX WELL SO THAT NO SOLID PIECES REMAIN.) The specimen will be rejected if not mixed.

STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDELINES



4. Store at room temperature or refrigerate up to 4 days.
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. Collect at least 5 mL of fresh stool and place in a sterile screw-capped container.
2. Refrigerate the container and return to the lab as soon as possible within 48 hours of collection.
3. Collect no more than one sample within a 24-hour period.
4. 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 Occult Blood Test (FIT envelope and FOBT-CHEK Sampling Bottle)

1. Open the FIT envelope to see the collection instructions.
2. Read and follow all instructions found under the flap of the outer envelope to properly collect the stool sample.
3. 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.
4. 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**