



Laboratory Guidelines for the Collection & Testing of Stool Specimens 2015

Test	Collection			Transport	Comments
	Guidelines	Device	Preservative		
Stool for Culture (CSTO) * Does not include <i>Yersinia</i> or <i>Vibrio</i> ; these must be ordered separately (CYERS, CVIB)	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container. Transfer to collection device.	Cary-Blair (orange) container for culture. Must be filled until red liquid is displaced to the line. Do not overfill.	Liquid transport media for the preservation of stool pathogens.	All preserved specimens are suitable for testing for up to 2 weeks in the preservative. Must be rec'd w/in 3 days.	Unpreserved stool; submitted within 2 hours of collection; will not be accepted after 2 hours.
Stool for Ova and Parasite Screen (antigen test for <i>Giardia</i> & <i>Cryptosporidium</i>) (OAPS)*	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container. Transfer to collection device.	Cary-Blair (orange) container for culture. Must be filled until red liquid is displaced to the line. Do not overfill.	Liquid transport media for the preservation of stool pathogens.	All preserved specimens are suitable for testing for up to 2 weeks in the preserved container.	Unpreserved stool; submitted within 2 hours of collection; will not be accepted after 2 hours.
Stool for Ova and Parasites (Refer to ARUP catalog for further O&P info) (AFOAP)*	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container. Transfer to collection device.	Green cap Parasep SF transport container for ova and parasites. Must be filled w/in 1 hour after collection with 2 level scoops of stool.	Clear tube with green cap containing liquid (Alcor Fix) with scoop assembly.	All preserved specimens are suitable for testing for up to 9 months ambient or refrigerated in the Parasep SF container.	To be used for immune-compromised patients, patients who have traveled outside the US or pts with persistent diarrhea (≥ 14 days).
Stool for White Blood Cells (GSD)*	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container.	Submit container of unpreserved stool to lab within 2 hours of collection.	Stool must not be put in preservative.	Bring specimen to laboratory within two hours of collection.	Unpreserved stool; submitted within 2 hours of collection; will not be accepted after 2H
Stool for <i>Clostridium difficile</i>* (CDIFEP) by PCR	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container. Refrigerate.	Submit container as soon as possible.	Refrigerate immediately after collection at 2-8°C. Can be stored at RT° if received and tested within 24 hours.	Bring specimen to lab ASAP. Stable refrigerated for up to 5 days	Only unforned or liquid stool is acceptable. Only 1 specimen is required. Pt age must be >2; <2yo pt spec sent to ARUP.
Stool for Occult Blood (SOB)☼	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container.	Smear stool on patient side of occult blood card.	None – use card.	Cards must be received within 14 days of collection.	Patient should be given special dietary instructions prior to collection.
Stool for Rotavirus (ROTA)☼	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container.	Submit container as soon as possible.	Stool must not be put in preservative.	Bring specimen to laboratory as soon as possible.	
Stool for Reducing Substances (STRS)☼	Pass specimen directly into a clean, dry container.	Submit container as soon as possible.	Stool must not be put in preservative.	Bring specimen to laboratory as soon as possible.	

* Test performed in Microbiology Department; for questions contact Sharon Cairns 663-3451

☼ Test performed in Chemistry Department; for questions contact Christine Wright 663-2544

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