



Laboratory Guidelines for the Collection & Testing of Stool Specimens 2017

| 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 72 hours of collection, held at 2-8°C; will not be accepted after 72 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 <u>unpreserved stool</u> 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 2 hours |
| 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 Lisa Laliberty 663-2572

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