

STOOL COLLECTION GUIDELINES FOR MICROBIOLOGIC TESTING

Materials supplied

Stool culture collection device (Sterile container or Para Pak[®] vials)

Wooden spatula

Biohazard transport bags

Collection instructions:

*** DO NOT USE ANTIBIOTICS, LAXATIVES, ANTI-DIARRHEA COMPOUNDS, BARIUM, BISMUTH, MINERAL OIL BEFORE COLLECTING STOOL SPECIMEN ***

- Pass stool in a clean, dry hat mounted on the toilet (left), if provided. Or on a clean plastic bag/wrap placed over the toilet seat opening (right). **DO NOT USE TOILET PAPER** to collect stool. Toilet paper may be impregnated with barium salts, which are inhibitory for some fecal pathogens.



- Diaper dependent patients: Line the back half of the diaper with plastic wrap to collect the stool. An alternative is to put a disposable diaper on the child inside out and remove it immediately after the bowel movement. The skin should be cleansed of any lotions or powders. **DIAPERS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

Sterile Container

Test: Stool Culture ☐ Cdiff testing ☐

- Carefully remove the lid.
- Use the provided wooden spatula to transfer a quantity of the stool specimen (choose bloody, slimy, watery area of stool if present)
- Replace the lid on the container and tighten securely.
- Place specimen inside the biohazard transport bag (one specimen per bag).
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly.
- The paperwork (requisition or doctor's orders) should be placed in the rear pocket of the bag.
- Transport to the Lab within 2 HOURS at room temperature or if >2 hours refrigerate and deliver within 24 hours.



Para Pak® C&S vial (orange top)

Test: Stool Culture ☐ GI Pathogen Panel ☐ Giardia/Cryptosporidium Ag ☐

- Carefully remove the lid.
- Use the spoon on the lid to add enough to displace fluid to the fill line on the side of the vial. DO **NOT** FILL VIAL ABOVE THIS LINE! (choose bloody, slimy, watery area of stool if present)
- Replace the lid on the container and tighten securely.
- Shake until well mixed.
- Place specimen inside the biohazard transport bag (one specimen per bag).
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly.
- The paperwork (requisition or doctor's orders) should be placed in the rear pocket of the bag.



Para Pak® EcoFix vials (green top)

Test: Ova & Parasite complete ☐

- Carefully remove the lid.
- Use the spoon on the lid to add enough to displace fluid to the fill line on the side of the vial. DO **NOT** FILL VIAL ABOVE THIS LINE! (choose bloody, slimy, watery area of stool if present)
- Replace the lid on the container and tighten securely.
- Shake until well mixed.
- Place specimen inside the biohazard transport bag (one specimen per bag).
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly.
- The paperwork (requisition or doctor's orders) should be placed in the rear pocket of the bag.
- Transport to the Lab within 24 HOURS at room temperature.

