



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

ROTAVIRUS COLLECTION PROTOCOL

Collection of an adequate specimen critical for the detection of Rotavirus. The preferred specimen is feces, however, a rectal swab is acceptable.

I. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Feces Specimen

- a. Avoid using a container with preservatives, metal ions, detergents, or serum.
- b. Collect a minimum of 30 ul of uncontaminated (no urine or barium) raw stool and place into a clean container.

2. Rectal Swab

- a. Rectal swabs may be collected by the physician, nursing or laboratory staff. The laboratory procurement staff will be responsible for collection of specimens from patients coming to the outpatient areas.
- b. Lay the child either on back or stomach.
- c. Separate buttocks to allow access to anal opening.
- d. Carefully insert culturette swab into the rectum beyond the anal sphincter (so tip of swab is not visible). Gently rotate swab. Withdraw swab.
- e. Place swab into the culturette.

II. TRANSPORT

1. Transport feces or swab to the Microbiology department immediately.
2. If transport is to be delayed, the specimen may be refrigerated up to 24 hours at 2-8° C. If the delay is greater than 24 hours, the specimen must be frozen at -20° C or colder until tested.