

STOOL COLLECTION

General Guide

- a freshly collected specimen is mandatory, especially for Shigella
- Samples should be delivered to the laboratory within 1 hour OR placed in the appropriate fecal transport containers.
- Fecal transport containers should be delivered to the laboratory within 24 hours.
- Fecal transport containers can be obtained from the laboratory (Lab Supplies).

Routine Bacterial Stool Culture

- Collect stool in a clean, dry container
- Specimen must be urine free.
- You may place plastic wrap or wax paper over the toilet to collect the specimen
- Transfer the stool specimen as soon as possible into Cary Blair fecal transport medium (red fluid) (Green or Orange Lid Enteric Plus) or deliver to the laboratory within 1 hour from collection

Ova and Parasites

- Please indicate if patient is from another country, has traveled out of the country, or has eaten foreign made food to get extended Ova & Parasite testing.
- Cryptosporidium and Giardia are the most common parasites in America, therefore only testing for these 2 pathogens will be performed unless criteria for full O&P is present. Crypto/Giardia screen are collected into Cary Blair fecal transport medium (red fluid) (Green or Orange Lid Enteric Plus)
- Collect stool in a clean, dry container
- Specimen must be urine free.
- You may place plastic wrap or wax paper over the toilet to collect the specimen
- Transfer the stool specimen as soon as possible into Total-Fix Vial (Black lid) fecal transport medium or deliver to the laboratory within 1 hour from collection

Clostridium difficile toxin/PCR, Calprotectin, Rotavirus, Fecal WBCs, Helicobacter pylori Antigen.

- Collect stool in a clean, dry container
- Specimen must be urine free.
- Testing will only be performed on stool in the diarrheal state. Solid, formed stools will not be tested.
- You may place plastic wrap or wax paper over the toilet to collect the specimen
- Transfer the stool specimen as soon as possible into Clean Vial (White lid) fecal transport container or deliver to the laboratory within 1 hour from collection

GI Pathogen Profile by PCR

- Collect stool in a clean, dry container
- Specimen must be urine free.
- Testing will only be performed on stool in the diarrheal state. Solid, formed stools will not be tested.
- You may place plastic wrap or wax paper over the toilet to collect the specimen
- Transfer the stool specimen as soon as possible into Cary Blair fecal transport medium (red fluid) (Green or Orange Lid Enteric Plus) AND Clean Vial (White lid) fecal transport container or deliver to the laboratory within 1 hour from collection

Routine Viral Stool Culture

- Collect stool in a clean, dry container
- Specimen must be urine free.
- You may place plastic wrap or wax paper over the toilet to collect the specimen
- Transfer the stool specimen as soon as possible into Clean Vial (White lid) fecal transport container or deliver to the laboratory within 1 hour from collection
- Stool specimen can also be placed into Universal Viral Transport media for transport to the laboratory

Stool Collection Guide

| Test | Collection Vial | Specimen Stability |
|---|---|---|
| Stool Culture (Includes Shigella, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Shigatoxin producing E. Coli, or Yersinia) | Enteric Plus or Cary Blair. (Orange/Green Lid) Rectal swab, sterile cup, or clean vial | 96 hours-ambient (DO NOT REFRIGERATE VIAL) 2 hours if fresh |
| Ova & Parasite | Total-Fix Vial (Black Lid) | 1 month ambient preferred; can be refrigerated |
| Calprotectin | Clean vial (white lid) | 5 days refrigerated 1 month frozen |
| Clostridium difficile (C. diff.) by PCR | clean vial (White Lid) | 2 hours - ambient 3 days - refrigerated |
| Giardia/Crypto Screen | clean vial (White Lid) Enteric Plus or Cary Blair (Orange/Green Lid) | Clean vial - 2 hours - ambient Enteric Plus Fixative- 7 days room temp (ambient) |
| GI Pathogen Profile by PCR | clean vial (White Lid) AND Enteric Plus or Cary Blair (Orange/Green Lid) | Clean vial- 2 hours - ambient Enteric Plus Fixative- 4 days room temp (ambient) |
| H. Pylori Antigen, Stool | clean vial (White Lid) | 3 days - refrigerated 1 month Frozen |
| Rotavirus Antigen, stool | clean vial (White Lid) | 2 hours - ambient 72 hours - refrigerated 3 months - frozen |
| Occult Blood (if cards not used) | clean vial (White Lid) | 7 days - refrigerated |
| WBC Stool | clean vial (White Lid) | 2 weeks - ambient 2 weeks - refrigerated 1 month - frozen |
| Viral Culture | clean vial (White Lid) Universal Viral Transport | 3 days - refrigerated |