Collecting a Stool Sample

Patient Instructions

You have been provided one or more of the following containers:

- Clean Vial (no liquid)
- Stool Culture with Transport Medium – Cary Blair (red liquid)
- Ova & Parasites with Transport Medium – SAF Fixative (clear liquid)

Fill all containers provided. Do not discard liquid.

Please be aware that the liquids in the containers are poisonous.

1 Urinate into the toilet, if needed, prior to collecting stool sample.

2 Lift toilet seat. Place plastic collection hat or wrap over the toilet bowl. Leave a slight dip in the center if using plastic wrap. A sterilized bedpan can also be used.

3 Do not let water or urine contaminate the stool specimen.

4 Using the spoon attached to the cap, place adequate amount of stool into each specimen container.

Container that is clean and empty: Add stool to the FILL LINE or at least 1 tsp. **Tighten cap securely.**

Containers with liquid preservatives: Add 2-3 spoonfuls of stool until the liquid reaches the FILL LINE. **Tighten cap(s) securely and shake to mix.**

Do not under-fill or over-fill the containers.

5 Wash hands with soap and water.

6 Write name, date of birth, and date and time of collection on each container label. Place the filled stool containers into the plastic bag and seal.

7 Bring the specimens to the lab as soon as possible. Delays may affect test results.

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Follow the marked (X) specific instructions to determine which containers your specimen should be placed in.
Transfer stool to the container immediately after passage.

TESTING ORDERED:

_____ **GI BACTERIAL PANEL PCR / GI EXPANDED BACTERIAL PCR**

Note: If Ova and Parasite testing also ordered, an additional red or orange cap specimen does not need to be collected.

YELLOW CAP C&S (red liquid) CONTAINER

1. Open the container and place small scoopfuls of the stool into the container until the liquid level reaches the red fill line. Use stool from bloody, slimy, or watery areas. If the stool is liquid just pour it into the bottle.
2. Tighten the cap and mix completely by shaking the container.
3. Store refrigerated for up to 3 days. Specimens must be received by the laboratory within 3 days of collection. If **stool PMNS** are also ordered, the sample must be returned within 12 hours of collection.

_____ **OVA AND PARASITE SCREEN OR EXAM,** GIARDIA ANTIGEN OR CRYPTOSPORIDIUM ASSAY

BLACK CAP TOTAL-FIX (clear liquid) <u>and</u> YELLOW CAP C&S (red liquid)

1. **Both containers must always be collected together with the same stool specimen.**
2. If you have been asked to collect more than one set of containers, you must only collect one set per day.
3. Open each container and place small scoopfuls of the stool into each container until the liquid level reaches the red fill line. Use stool from bloody, slimy, or watery areas. If the stool is liquid, just pour it into the container.
4. Tighten the caps and mix completely by shaking the container.
5. Store refrigerated for up to 4 days. Specimens must be received by the laboratory within 4 days of collection.

_____ **C. DIFFICILE**

WHITE CAP CLEAN VIAL or CLEAN STERILE CONTAINER

1. Open the container and place at least 1 tsp. of stool into the container and secure the lid. It's always better to send more stool than not enough. Only diarrheal or loose stool should be submitted.
2. Store refrigerated for up to 3 days. Specimens must be received by the laboratory within 3 days of collection.

_____ **ROTAVIRUS**

WHITE CAP CLEAN VIAL or CLEAN STERILE CONTAINER

1. Open the container and place at least ½ tsp. of stool into the container and secure the lid. It's always better to send more stool than not enough.
2. Infants – rectal swab (Culturette, single swab) is acceptable (provider performed collection recommended).
3. Store refrigerated for up to 3 days. Specimens must be received by the laboratory within 3 days of collection.

_____ **H. PYLORI ANTIGEN**

YELLOW CAP C&S (red liquid) CONTAINER (preferred) or WHITE CAP CLEAN VIAL or CLEAN STERILE CONTAINER

Diarrheal stool should NOT be submitted for this test.

1. Open the yellow cap vial and place small scoopfuls of stool into the container until the liquid level reaches the red fill line.
2. Tightly secure cap and mix by shaking the container. Do not under fill or over fill the stool vial.
3. If using white cap vial or sterile container, place at least 1 tsp of stool into the container and secure the lid.
4. Store refrigerated for up to 96 hours. Specimens must be received by the laboratory within 4 days of collection.

_____ **GASTROINTESTINAL PANEL**

ORANGE CAP C&S (red liquid) CONTAINER

1. Open the container and place small scoopfuls of the stool into the container until the liquid level reaches the red fill line. Use stool from bloody, slimy, or watery areas. If the stool is liquid just pour it into the bottle.
2. Tighten the cap and mix completely by shaking the container.
3. Store refrigerated for up to 3 days. Testing is performed at Mayo Clinical Laboratories; allow 1 day for transport from AHS lab to Mayo lab. Specimens must be received by the testing laboratory within 4 days of collection.

If you have questions regarding the collection of your stool specimen, you may contact the laboratory at (701)795-2235.
Test results must be obtained from the provider and will not be communicated by the laboratory.

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