

Collecting Stool Samples for Bacterial Enteric Pathogen Testing, Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile Toxin, Parasite Screen and/or Ova and Parasites

How to Prepare

- **DO NOT** use a laxative before collecting the stool sample including mineral or castor oil.
- Empty bladder (urinate) completely to prevent stool sample contamination with urine.
- For Ova & Parasite test requests, ensure [Stool Ova & Parasite History Form MI6011](#) is completed by your physician and is submitted with the Laboratory Requisition.

Risks or Cautions

- The SAF solution is poisonous; keep out of reach of children.
- If swallowed, drink lots of milk or water and IMMEDIATELY call the POISON Centre 1-800-332-1414.

Collecting the Sample

- Obtain sterile collection container from physician or laboratory staff. Depending on the tests ordered, you may receive an empty container with an orange lid, or a Stool Collection Kit which includes one empty container (red lid) and one container with a preservative called **SAF** (yellow lid).
- **Wash hands** with soap and water before collecting sample. 

Adults:

- If you need to collect more than one stool sample (i.e. X3) collect each sample on a different day.
- Collect the stool sample into any clean, dry disposable container or onto plastic wrap placed under the toilet seat, or waxed cardboard container.
- **DO NOT** let water touch the stool sample.

Infants (diaper):

- **DO NOT** submit stool sample in diapers. For small children with diarrhea, or liquid stool, fasten a diaper liner (e.g. plastic kitchen wrap) to the diaper using childproof safety pins. Remove the stool sample from the diaper using a disposable plastic spoon and put into the container(s) following the steps below.

Adding Stool to Collection Containers:

- Take parts of the stool that look bloody or slimy (contain mucous/pus).



Sterile Container (orange lid) for Bacterial Enteric Pathogen, Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile Toxin and Parasite Screen tests

- Fill the empty container at least 1/3 full (30 mL). **Do not** fill more than half full.
- Replace lid.

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Stool Collection Kit for Ova and Parasite test

- Fill SAF fixative container (yellow lid) by adding enough stool to bring the fluid **as close to the fill line as possible but not above.** This will require approximately 1 teaspoon (5mL) of stool. **Do not overfill** as testing cannot be performed on overfilled SAF containers.
 - **If a whole parasite (e.g. worm) is identified**, place in SAF container (yellow lid).
- Fill the empty container (red lid) to the fill line displayed on the container.
- **Stool must be added to both containers of the kit.**
- Replace the lids. For the SAF container, shake the stool and SAF until well mixed.
- **Wash hands** thoroughly with soap and water after collecting the sample.

Labelling the Sample

Label the collection container with:

- Laboratory or physician office issued patient label **or**
- Write the patient **full first and last name, Provincial Health Number (PHN)**, or Government issued identification (Federal, Military, RCMP, Immigration).
- Write **date and time of collection**. For **multiple samples** to be collected on different days, also write #1, #2, etc. on each container to indicate the order the samples were collected.



Lab Requisition

- **Print** the date and time the sample was collected on the lab requisition.
- **Fold** and place the requisition in the **outside** pocket of the plastic resealable bag. **Do not** put the requisition in the bag with the sample collection container.
- Place sample container(s) in the provided plastic resealable bag(s). For **multiple samples** write the date and time the sample was collected on the requisition with the corresponding number belonging to the sample (i.e. #1, #2) in the "Date & Time Collected:" space at the bottom of the Microbiology requisition for each sample collected.

Sample Delivery to Lab

- Transport the sample(s) and requisition(s) to the laboratory as soon as possible (within 8 hours after collecting).
- If the stool sample cannot be delivered to the laboratory immediately after collection, keep refrigerated and deliver to the laboratory within 24 hours.

Samples not labelled as required or those that do not have a completed requisition will NOT be tested.

Questions? Contact the Laboratory Information Centre at 403-770-3600