Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

Enteric Bacterial Panel and C. difficile Stool Collection

How to Prepare • Do not use laxatives (including mineral or castor oil), antibiotics, antacids, antidiarrheal drugs, Gynolll® vaginal contraceptive, or enemas before collecting stool specimens. • **Do not** contaminate stool with Vagisil, nystatin cream, and spermicidal lubricant. Obtain a sterile container from clinic or laboratory staff. Labelling the Specimen container MUST be labelled with full first and last name AND personal **Specimen** health number or it will NOT be tested. Label the collection container with ALL the following information: Your (the patient) full first and last name. Your unique personal health number (Alberta PHN Doe, John or ULI#). Date-of-birth is NOT sufficient. 12345 6700 3 July 2011 • The date and time of specimen collection. 0900 am Alberta PHN is found on the Alberta Personal Health Card. Connect Care Medical Record Number (MRN), or other provincial health care numbers are acceptable. If you do not have a PHN or ULI please ask your local laboratory for alternatives. Lab Requisition • Print the date and time the stool specimen was collected on your lab requisition. • Fold and place the requisition in the outside pocket of the plastic specimen bag. Collecting the • Urinate completely first to prevent urine from touching the stool specimen. **Specimen** • Collect the stool specimen into a clean, dry disposable container (e.g., paper plate), or on to plastic wrap placed between the toilet seat and the bowl and collect the stool onto the wrap. **DO NOT** let water touch the stool specimen. • Using the provided stick or spork, add 1-2 tablespoons of stool to the specimen container. Do not fill the container more than half full. If some of the stool is bloody or slimy (contains mucous or pus), make sure to include that part of the stool in the container. Close the container with the lid and ensure the lid is tightly closed and not leaking. Place specimen container in the provided plastic resealable bag. • Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after collecting the specimen. For infant or toddler who is not yet using the toilet, line the diaper with plastic wrap. Place it so the pee runs into the diaper and not the wrap. Using a disposable stick or spoon, scoop stool specimen from the plastic wrap and into the container as above. Do not submit stool specimen in diapers. **Specimen** Transport the specimen and requisition to the laboratory as soon as possible. If **Delivery to Lab** the stool specimen cannot be delivered to the laboratory immediately after collection. keep refrigerated and deliver to laboratory within 24 hours. • Specimen containers that are leaking when received will NOT be tested. Questions Laboratory location, hours and contact information may be found at: **About Your** • www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca Collection? Alberta Precision Laboratories at 1-877-868-6848 Health Link Alberta at 811