


Stool Culture and Sensitivity

This document is applicable at site(s):

All Sites

How to Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use laxatives, antacids or antidiarrheal medication for at least 1 week before collection of the specimen.
Risks or Caution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No risks or cautions.
Labelling the Specimen	<p>Label the collection container with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your (the patient) full first and last name • The date and time of specimen collection • Your unique personal health number (PHN or ULI#) Alberta PHN is found on the Alberta Personal Health Card  <p>If you do not have a PHN or ULI please ask your local laboratory for alternatives. Please note all specimens need 2 identifiers to be processed.</p>
Lab Requisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print the date and time the sample was collected on your lab requisition. • Fold and place the requisition in the outside pocket of the plastic bag.
Collecting the Specimen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First pass urine into the toilet (if you have to). 2. Collect the stool specimen in a clean wide-mouthed container (eg. paper plate or ice cream pail) or a large plastic bag/plastic wrap may be placed over the toilet opening (but under the toilet seat) and the stool specimen passed onto the plastic. The stool specimen must not come in contact with water or urine. <p>Note: For small children having diarrhea, fasten plastic kitchen wrap to the diaper using childproof safety pins. After the bowel movement, remove stool from the liner and transfer it into the collection vial. Please do this at home. Stool collected in diapers is not acceptable for testing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Carefully unscrew the cap from the plastic collection container. Do not touch the inside of the lid or container with your fingers. 4. Using the applicator stick, fill the container half full. Do not add any foreign materials such as toilet paper or plastic wrap. Collect stool from areas that look bloody, mucousy or watery. 5. Close the screw cap tightly.
Specimen Delivery to Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring your specimen and requisition to your local laboratory as soon as possible or within 18 hours. • Store at fridge temperature.
Questions About Your Collection?	<p>Laboratory location, hours and contact information may be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://myhealth.alberta.ca • Health Link Alberta at 811