

Stool (Bowel Movement) Collection Instructions

**NOTE: Physicians
Order Required!**
(Requisition/Script/Fax)

Stool samples that cannot be delivered to the laboratory within 60 minutes of collection require special handling (i.e. refrigeration and/or preservative transport vials). See below for proper preservative for the test you are collecting. See reverse side of this page for how to use the preservative transport vials. All stool specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.

Refrigerated Stool:

- Clostridium Toxin
 - Rotavirus Antigen
 - Occult blood
 - H. pylori stool Antigen
 - Lactoferrin (WBC's)*
 - Shiga Toxin
- *Order Wright stain for breast fed infants*

Para-Pak C&S:

- * Stool Culture
 - E. coli O157 screen
 - Yersinia screen
 - Parasite Panel
- * Stool culture requires a Para-pak C&S AND a refrigerated stool for the Shiga Toxin test (included).*

FRESH STOOL:

- Modified Acid Fast Smear

TOTAL FIX:

- Ova & Parasite Exam
- Modified Acid Fast Smear

STEP 1: Specimen Labeling

Label specimen container(s) with patient's name, date of birth, and the date and time of specimen collection.

STEP 2: Review Patient Preparation Instructions. Read Carefully Prior to Collection!

*****DO NOT DISCONTINUE ANY MEDICATION WITHOUT CHECKING WITH YOUR DOCTOR *****

- Specimen collection must wait a minimum of 5 days after ingestion of intestinal X-ray preparations (barium), mineral oils, antacids, bismuth, antibiotics, anti-diarrheal medications or oily laxatives. These products may interfere with the following tests: **stool culture, ova & parasite exam, modified acid fast smear, E. coli O157 screen, and Yersinia screen.**
- You **MUST** discontinue use of any antibiotics, proton pump inhibitors, or bismuth preparations for 2 weeks prior to collection of the specimen for **H. pylori stool antigen.**
- Specimen cannot touch urine or water during specimen collection.
- If a series of the same test is ordered (e.g. ova & parasite exam x 3), the samples should be collected on separate days, every other day, if possible.

STEP 3: Specimen Collection (A walnut-size specimen is sufficient for each test.)

ADULTS:

- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Pass stool directly into a clean dry container.
- After collection, transfer the sample into a screw-top container.

INFANTS AND TODDLERS:

- Collect stool by lining the inside of a diaper with a non absorbent material such as plastic wrap and place on child.
- After collection, transfer the sample into a screw-top container.
- DO NOT** submit a diaper to the laboratory for testing.

STEP 4: Specimen Preservation and Transport

• OPTION 1

If you are able to bring the specimen to the laboratory within 60 minutes of collection – maintain specimen at room temperature. Refrigeration or preservative transport vials are not required. The laboratory will preserve your specimen for testing. **Transport the specimen to one of these laboratory sites:**

- 1520 7th St., Moline

- 1828 E. Locust St, Davenport

• OPTION 2

If you are unable to bring the specimen to the laboratory within 60 minutes of collection – your specimens will need special handling (i.e. refrigeration and/or preservative vials). If a refrigerated stool is needed – refrigerate a portion of the sample in a clean dry labeled container. Refer to the instructions below if your specimen needs preservation in a special vial. **Return your specimen to any of our laboratory sites listed below.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESERVATIVE VIALS (Para-Pak C&S, TOTAL FIX)

CAUTION: SOLUTIONS ARE POISONOUS, DO NOT DRINK. KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN. Do not take internally. Avoid contact with eyes or skin. For contact with eyes, flush with water at least five minutes. For skin contact, wash thoroughly with soap and water. For accidental ingestion, dilute by drinking 2-4 glasses of water. Immediately contact Poison Control Center, your physician, or local hospital. Save the vial label information.

1. Carefully remove lid from the preservative vial. (Fig. 2)
2. Use the spoon on the lid to add enough stool to raise the liquid level to the arrow on the side of the bottle. (Fig. 3) **DO NOT OVERFILL** vial.
3. If your stool sample is solid, use the sticks to remove the sample from the spoon and to mix your sample with the liquid in the vial. (Fig. 4)
4. Replace the lid tightly. **MAKE CERTAIN THAT IT IS TIGHTLY CLOSED.** Shake the vial 20 times until all contents are well mixed. (Fig. 5)
5. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
6. Ensure the patient's full name, date of birth, and the date & time of specimen collection are written on all specimen vials. (Fig. 1)
7. Maintain specimen vials (Parapak C&S, TOTAL FIX) at room temperature.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

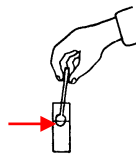


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

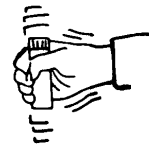


Fig. 5



RETURN ALL SPECIMENS TO THE LABORATORY

Moline	1520 7 th Street	309-762-8555	<u>M-F</u> 6a-6p	<u>Sat</u> 6a-12p	<u>Sun</u> 6a-12p
Davenport	1828 E. Locust Street	563-324-0471	6a-6p	6a-12p	6a-12p