

Patient Instructions for the Collection and Transport of Stool Specimens for Miscellaneous Tests

The specimen(s) must be properly collected and transported in order for the test results to be valid. These instructions are for the following tests: C. difficile toxin antigen test, fecal fat screen, gram stain (or WBC) and rotavirus antigen test.

Stool Specimen Collection Instructions

- Specimen can be collected by passing stool onto a clean paper plate, onto plastic wrap that is placed between the toilet seat and the toilet bowl or by using a commode pan.
- Specimen can be collected from an infant by use of a disposable diaper that is placed on the child inside out or the diaper can be lined with plastic wrap.
- Do not submit a sample that has been contaminated with urine or toilet water.

Stool Specimen Transport

1. Place the stool specimen in a clean, leak-proof container and transport to the lab as soon as possible (within 24 hours). The specimen should be refrigerated until it can be taken to the laboratory.
2. For gram stain (or WBC) test only: Collect using the O&P vial. Maintain at room temperature.

The Outpatient Laboratory at Central DuPage Hospital is open during the following days/hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6:30 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday	6:30 am – 6:30 pm
Saturday	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Convenient Care Laboratories are open during the following days/hours:

Monday – Friday	7:30 am – 8:30 pm
Saturday – Sunday	8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Holidays	7:30 am – 4:00 pm*

* Open locations may vary; please call for holiday hours.

The patient's name, date of birth, date and time of collection should be noted on the specimen container.