

Patient Instructions for the Collection and Transport of Stool Specimens for Ova and Parasites

Please read directions completely before beginning the collection. The specimen(s) must be properly collected and transported in the containers obtained from a hospital, clinical laboratory or your physician in order for the test results to be valid.

Your physician may order more than one stool sample collection for ova and parasites since parasites may be shed intermittently. In this case, the specimens must be collected on different days and are to be submitted in separate containers.

There are several tests, treatments and substances that interfere with stool ova and parasite exams. They include: mineral oil, castor oil, iodine, barium X-ray dye, gall bladder X-ray dye and antibiotics. If you had any of these tests or treatments within the past three weeks, notify your physician before collecting the specimen.

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.
- Place a selected portion of the specimen in the appropriate transport containers as soon as possible (see directions below). This small amount of sample is all that is needed for testing.
- DO NOT submit a sample that has been contaminated with urine or toilet water.

Stool Specimen Preservation and Transport

Specimens are to be preserved in a special container provided by the hospital, clinical laboratory or your physician. This vial contains media necessary to preserve the sample.

After collecting a specimen using the techniques above:

1. Select portions of the stool that appear bloody, slimy or watery and place in the appropriate vial until the volume of media and sample rises to the red line on the vial. If the specimen appears normal, select any portion of the specimen.
2. Mix the contents of the vial with the container spoon, twist the cap tightly closed and shake until the contents are well mixed.
3. Maintain the vials and sample at room temperature.
4. Deliver specimen(s) to one of our locations:

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.