

Patient Instructions for the Collection and Transport of Stool Specimens for Culture and Susceptibility Studies

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 testing for parasites as well as bacteria (culture). In this case, the specimens must be submitted in appropriate containers (provided by the hospital, laboratory or physician).

There are several tests, treatments, and substances that interfere with stool sample testing. 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 special containers provided by the hospital, clinical laboratory or your physician. These vials contain media necessary to preserve the sample. Do not ingest the fluid in these containers.

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) for testing 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	9:00am – 12:00 pm

The Immediate Care Center Laboratories are open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily, and are closed on holidays.

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