

PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS COLLECTION OF STOOL SPECIMENS

****WARNING****- The liquid in the bottles is poisonous. Keep it out of the reach of children. If the liquid is swallowed, call a physician immediately. If the liquid touches skin or eyes, flush with water and call physician.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Patient should not have taken antibiotics, antacids, barium, anti-diarrheal medication, or oily laxatives for at least 72 hours prior to collection of stool specimen.
2. Stool should be passed into a clean, dry container. Toilet "hats" are provided with the stool collection kits at the time of pickup. Alternatively, a toilet seat may be covered with plastic wrap or the specimen may be passed into a clean, dry cut-off plastic milk carton or similar item.
3. Urine must not be passed into the same container.
4. Open the bottle or bottles received from the laboratory or physician's office and holding the cap with the attached spoon, select an area of stool that contains blood or mucous. Add specimen to the bottle until the fluid reaches the "fill to here" line indicated on the paper label. If the stool specimen is liquid, you may pour the specimen into the bottle until the line is reached. **Do not overfill the bottle.**
5. Replace and tighten the cap. **Shake the bottle well to mix the specimen with the fluid.**
6. **WASH YOUR HANDS WELL WITH SOAP AND WATER.**
7. Print your name, the date, and the time of collection on the bottle. Indicate the consistency of the stool specimen as **liquid** (pourable), **soft** (no definite shape), or **formed** (definite shape).
8. Check caps again to be certain they are tightly closed and seal the bottle or bottles in the ziplock bag.
9. Allow all specimen bottles to remain at room temperature until transported to the laboratory.
DO NOT REFRIGERATE BOTTLES with orange, pink or gray caps.
DO REFRIGERATE SPECIMEN IN CLEAN (RED) CUP.
10. Return all specimens to the lab as soon after collection as possible.

ORANGE CAP BOTTLE: Stool normally contains a large number of bacteria, referred to as normal flora. Bacteria capable of causing diarrhea and/or disease are called pathogens. Your physician has requested the lab to identify these pathogens, if present, in your stool specimen. If the bottle has an orange cap, it will also contain a red liquid. If, after adding stool to the red liquid, the liquid turns yellow, recovery of pathogens is not possible. Return the bottle to the lab and you will be given another bottle for recollection of the specimen. (Stool Culture)

PINK CAP BOTTLES AND GRAY CAP BOTTLES: Infection with intestinal parasites can be diagnosed by recovery of eggs or the parasite itself from fresh stool specimens. The clear liquids in the bottles are fixative solutions to preserve parasites in their natural form so they can be easily identified. If you received orders to collect this test three times, the best results come from one specimen collected on each of three consecutive days. (Stool for Ova and Parasites)

CLEAN (RED) CUP: An examination of the stool specimen for blood or pus can also provide useful information to the physician. These tests require submission of at least a marble sized stool specimen without preservative or fixative. If the specimen is liquid, several spoonfuls are enough. (For example -- Stool for occult blood, leukocytes, rotovirus, C diff)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS COLLECTION PROCEDURE, PLEASE CALL THE BROWNWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER LABORATORY MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT (325) 649-3119.