

LABORATORY COLLECTION MANUAL	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIMED STOOL SPECIMENS
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I. PURPOSE:

It is necessary sometimes to do testing on timed stool specimens. Because the specimens are usually 24-72 hour timed specimens, the correct procedure should be followed in order that the specimen will be collected properly. The entire specimen must be brought to the lab for accurate testing results.

II. PROCEDURE:

- A. Obtain container from laboratory for collection and storing of specimen.
- B. This container is weighed in the laboratory before use so that the difference in the weight of a full and an empty container can be used to weigh the amount of stool specimen.
- C. Begin the collection time at the time of the first bowel movement.
- D. Collect all stool specimens and place in the white container. Be careful to not contaminate with urine, toilet water or any other substance.
- E. Keep container on ice or in a refrigerator. **DO NOT PLACE ICE INSIDE THE CONTAINER WITH STOOL.**
- F. Collect all stool specimens for whatever time limit was ordered by the physician. It is usually either 24 or 72 hours.
- G. After collection is complete, return the container to the laboratory as soon as possible with a requisition or an Order/Entry label. Make sure that the proper tests are ordered, **AND SPECIMEN IS LABELED WITH PATIENT'S NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, AND DATE OF COLLECTION.**

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See original policy in the Laboratory for all documented annual reviews.