LABORATORY PATIENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS
Collecting Stool Samples for Bacterial Culture, Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile Toxin, Parasite Screen and/or Ova and Parasites

How to Prepare

- **DO NOT** use a laxative before collecting the stool sample including mineral or castor oil.
- Empty bladder (urinate) completely to prevent stool sample contamination with urine.
- For Ova & Parasite test requests, ensure [Stool Ova & Parasite History Form MI6011](#) is completed by your physician and is submitted with the Laboratory Requisition.

Risks or Cautions

- The SAF solution is poisonous; keep out of reach of children.
- If swallowed, drink lots of milk or water and IMMEDIATELY call the POISON Centre 1-800-332-1414.

Collecting the Sample

- Obtain sterile collection container from physician or laboratory staff. Depending on the tests ordered, you may receive an empty container with an orange lid, or a Stool Collection Kit which includes one empty container (red lid) and one container with a preservative called SAF (yellow lid).
- **Wash hands** with soap and water before collecting sample.

Adults:

- If you need to collect more than one stool sample (i.e. X3) collect each sample on a different day.
- Collect the stool sample into any clean, dry disposable container or onto plastic wrap placed under the toilet seat, or waxed cardboard container.
- **DO NOT** let water touch the stool sample.

Infants (diaper):

- **DO NOT** submit stool sample in diapers. For small children with diarrhea, or liquid stool, fasten a diaper liner (e.g. plastic kitchen wrap) to the diaper using childproof safety pins. Remove the stool sample from the diaper using a disposable plastic spoon and put into the container(s) following the steps below.

Adding Stool to Collection Containers:

- Take parts of the stool that look bloody or slimy (contain mucous/pus).

Sterile Container for Bacterial Culture, Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile Toxin and Parasite Screen tests

- Fill the empty container at least 1/3 full (30 mL). **Do not** fill more than half full.
- Replace lid.
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Stool Collection Kit for Ova and Parasite test
- Fill SAF container (yellow lid) by adding enough stool to bring the fluid to the fill line. **Do not overfill**; testing cannot be performed on overfilled SAF containers.
- Fill the empty container (red lid) to the fill line displayed on the container.
- **Stool must be added to both containers of the kit.**
- Replace the lids. For the SAF container, shake the stool and SAF until well mixed.

- **Wash hands** thoroughly with soap and water after collecting the sample.

Labelling the Sample
Label the collection container with:
- Laboratory or physician office issued patient label or
- Write the patient full first and last name, Provincial Health Number (PHN), or Government issued identification (Federal, Military, RCMP, Immigration).
- Write **date and time of collection**. For **multiple samples** to be collected on different days, also write #1, #2, etc. on each container to indicate the order the samples were collected.

Lab Requisition
- **Print** the date and time the sample was collected on the lab requisition.
- **Fold** and place the requisition in the outside pocket of the plastic resealable bag. **Do not** put the requisition in the bag with the sample collection container.
- Place sample container(s) in the provided plastic resealable bag(s). For **multiple samples** write the date and time the sample was collected on the requisition with the corresponding number belonging to the sample (i.e. #1, #2 ) in the “Date & Time Collected:” space at the bottom of the Microbiology requisition for each sample collected.

Sample Delivery to Lab
- **If not in the laboratory when the sample is collected, transport the sample(s) and requisition(s) to the laboratory as soon as possible (within 8 hours after collecting).**
- **If the stool sample cannot be delivered to the laboratory immediately after collection, keep refrigerated and deliver to the laboratory within 24 hours.**

Samples not labelled as required or those that do not have a completed requisition will NOT be tested.

Questions? Contact the Laboratory Information Centre at 403-770-3600