

Instructions for Collection of STOOL Specimens for Microbiology

Laboratory Medicine Program

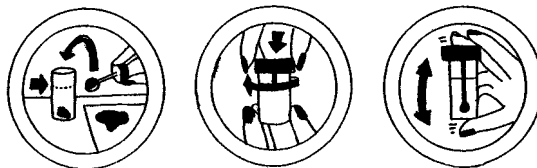
Collecting Stool Sample

1. Empty bladder
2. Collect stool sample in a clean, dry, disposable plastic container or onto a clean piece of paper.
Do NOT let water or urine mix with the stool sample.

Adding Stool Sample to Specimen Container

Some specimen containers contain a preservative liquid. **This liquid must not be removed.**

1. Using the spoon built into the lid of the container, or a clean disposable spoon, select areas of the stool that are especially bloody or slimy. Place a walnut-size piece of the stool into the specimen container.
Add stool just to the “FILL LINE” marked on the side of the container.
Avoid over filling
2. Replace the cap on the specimen container and tighten.
3. Containers with preservative liquid should be **mixed well**. **Shake the container with the liquid to mix the liquid with the stool sample.**



4. Wash hands with soap and water.
5. **Write the following information on the specimen container:**
 - patient's full name
 - patient's Medicare number
 - date and time the stool sample was collected.

Storing Stool Sample Before Delivering to Laboratory

Stool samples in containers with preservative liquid should be kept at room temperature. Stool samples in containers that do not include preservative liquid should be refrigerated. The stool sample, along with the requisition, should be delivered to the Laboratory within 24 hours.

Collecting Multiple Stool Samples

If you have been asked to collect more than one stool sample using the same container type:

- collect them **at least 24 hours apart**.
- include the date and time of each collection on the container.