



Diagnostic Laboratories

Collection Procedure for Stool Culture and/or Ova and Parasite

General Instructions:

- **READ COMPLETELY BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH COLLECTION.**
- Barium, antacids, kaolin, bismuth compounds and mineral oil interfere with Ova & Parasite specimens. Do not take any of these within 48 hours of collecting specimen.
- If you are given multiple collection kits by your physician, each kit must be collected 24 hours apart.
- The collection tubes contain poisonous liquid. Do not drink the liquid and keep out of reach of small children.

Collecting Specimen:

- The stool should be passed into a clean, DRY container. A bedpan or place a large plastic bag into a waste basket to catch the specimen. Also, a wide mouth container can be used.
- **BABIES IN DIAPERS:** A formed stool may be taken from the diaper and placed in the containers as described below. If the child has diarrhea, line the diaper with plastic wrap.
- Do not contaminate specimen with urine.
- Do not retrieve fecal specimen from toilet bowl.

Filling the Specimen Containers Containing Liquid:

- Open the tube and using the collection spoon built into the lid of the tube place small scoops of stool from areas which appear bloody, slimy or watery into the tube until the contents rise to the red line.
- Mix the contents of the tube with the collection spoon, twist the cap tightly closed and shake the tube vigorously until the contents are well mixed.
- Wash hands thoroughly.
- Fill in the information on the vial label: 1) Patient Name 2) date and time specimen was collected.
- Make sure the vial(s) are closed tightly, keep at room temperature.

White Plastic Container:

- Additional test may have been ordered such as a Clostridium difficile or fecal fat. Please place the specimen in the white container also. This container needs to be refrigerated until brought back to the physician's office.

Return the containers to the physician's office with any accompanying paperwork within 24 hours. Collections done on multiple days can be returned at one time.