



**Stool Collection for Culture and Sensitivity Instructions**

**Purpose:** To determine the presence of pathogenic bacteria in stool.

**Container:** 1 clean container (light blue cap)

**General instructions:**

- 1) A physician's order is required.
- 2) Specimens should be collected before administration of antibiotics or Barium.

**Specimen Collection Procedure:**

- 1) Use the bed pan provided to collect the specimen. Do not urinate into the pan.
- 2) Immediately, transfer the specimen into a clean container. Using a disposable plastic spoon, place a small scoopful of specimen into the container. It is very important to take samples of areas which appear bloody, mucoid or watery.
- 3) Recap the container and ensure that the cap is on tight.
- 4) Make sure that your NAME, DATE and TIME is on the container. Drop off the specimen to any patient service center.
- 5) If stool occult blood or other tests are ordered, use a separate container for additional sample.
- 6) In acute cases only, a swab may be submitted. Insert swab beyond anal sphincter. Swab must show feces to be acceptable.

**❖ NOTES**

- 1) Specimens submitted in leaky containers or containers with obvious gross external contamination will be rejected.
- 2) Specimens sent on diapers will not be accepted.
- 3) Specimens sent on toilet paper or exam gloves will not be accepted.
- 4) Specimens containing water or urine will not be accepted. Specimens from toilet bowls are also unacceptable.
- 5) 1.0 mL of liquid stool or 1 g of solid stool required. (About a Tsp.) Forward promptly at room temperature.

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**Specimen must be returned to lab within 24 hours.**