



## Instructions for Collecting Stool Specimens

### Helpful hints

*Most collection bottles have scoopers attached to the lids for easy handling, or children in diapers, the stool can be scraped off the diaper. For children who are toilet trained, place Saran Wrap or plastic bag under the toilet lid to collect stool sample (be sure to keep it out of the water). Please be sure to write the name and date on all containers.*

### Tests

**Stool culture:** Scoop enough stool to raise the fluid level to the red line on the container; then recap the container. Keep at room temperature for all labs.

**O&P (Ova and Parasites):** Scoop enough stool to equal the size of a quarter into O&P kit (there are two containers: pink and blue/gray). Recap containers. Keep at room temperature for all labs.

**Giardia:** Scoop enough stool to equal the size of a quarter into O&P kit (there are two containers in each packet: pink and blue/gray). Recap containers. Keep at room temperature for all labs.

**Yersinia:** Scoop stool into a sterile C&S container and keep at room temperature for all labs.

**Clostridium difficile toxins A and B:** Scoop enough stool to equal the size of a quarter into the clear plastic container. Refrigerate specimen for Atlantic Health System. Freeze specimen for Lab Corp and Quest.

**Rotavirus:** Scoop enough stool to equal the size of a quarter into the clear plastic container. Freeze specimen for Atlantic Health System. Refrigerate specimen for Lab Corp. Freeze specimen for Quest.

**Stool for occult blood:** Open the Occult Blood Card. Take the wooden stick/used toilet paper and take a very small sample of stool and make a thin smear on one square. Take a separate small sample from a different area of the stool and make a thin smear on the second square and close the card. Keep at room temperature for Atlantic Health System, Lab Corp and Quest. If you were instructed by your health care provider to mail them back to us, you may place the card in a plain Ziploc bag and place in an envelope to mail back to us. It is important that you mail it back to us so that it can be processed within 14 days of stool collection in order to have a valid result. Please write your child's name on the outside of the envelope.

**E. Coli:** Scoop enough stool to equal the size of a quarter into a sterile C&S container. Keep at room temperature for all labs.

**Stool for pH:** Place stool sample in a sterile, plastic container. Refrigerate for all labs.

**Stool for reducing substances:** Place stool sample in a sterile, plastic container. Refrigerate for Atlantic Health System and Lab Corp. Freeze specimen for Quest.

**Stool for qualitative fat:** Place stool sample in a sterile, plastic container. Refrigerate for Atlantic Health System and Lab Corp. Keep at room temperature Quest.

**Stool for H. Pylori antigen:** Place stool sample in a plastic, sterile container. Freeze for all labs.

**Stool for fecal elastase:** Place stool sample in a plastic, sterile container. Freeze for all labs.

**Pinworm:** Open paddle. Separate buttocks and lay the paddle against the anal opening (do not insert). Close the buttocks against the paddle to trap worms or eggs on the sticky surface of the paddle. This should be done in the early morning when the room is still dark. Keep specimen at room temperature for all labs.

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