



HOSPITAL

Armstrong Center for
Medicine and Health Hospital
Laboratory Information: (724) 534-8123

STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Specimens for Culture, *Clostridium difficile* toxin, Rotavirus and/or Ova and Parasites

About the collection containers

• Depending on the tests ordered, you have one empty container with an green lid, **or** a collection “kit” with one container with a pink lid and one container with a blue lid. There may also be an empty specimen cup.

Before collecting the specimen

- **DO NOT** use a laxative before collecting the stool specimen
- Empty bladder (pee) completely (so stool sample is not contaminated with urine)

How to collect the specimen(s):

- Collect the stool sample into any clean and dry disposable container (the lab will provide “hats” to use in the commode, or onto plastic wrap placed under the toilet seat)
- **DO NOT** let water touch the stool specimen

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

Adding stool to the containers

1. Put stool into all the containers that you were given.
2. Take parts of the stool that are bloody or slimy (contain mucous/pus).
3. In the containers with red lines on the labels, add enough stool to bring the fluid to the fill line. **DO NOT** overfill. **IMPORTANT:** Shake the stool and the liquid in the containers are well mixed.
4. In the plain container place 1 teaspoon of stool specimen.

After Collecting the Specimen

1. Wash hands thoroughly.
2. Label the container(s) with:
 - First and last name
 - Birth date
 - Specimen type (i.e. stool)
 - Date **and** time the specimen was collected
3. Refrigerate the plain cup until it is delivered to the lab. The containers with the green, pink, and blue lids can be stored at room temperature until delivered to the lab.
4. Take the specimen to the lab as soon as possible (within 18 hours after collection).