



Pathology Department

100 Park Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(518) 926-3800
www.glensfallshospital.org

General Instructions for Collecting a Stool Sample for Testing

- Your healthcare provider has requested that you collect a stool sample for a particular test or group of tests.
- Each test may require a specific container.
- Please read the following instructions carefully so the laboratory may process your specimen promptly.
- For timely results, all specimens should be submitted to the laboratory on the day of collection.
- It is **Very Important** to label all specimen collection containers with the patient's name and date and time of collection.
- Please review the following stool specimen (bowel movement) collection methods.

Do Not allow urine to mix with the stool sample:

Do Not collect stool that has been voided directly into the toilet

Do Not collect stool directly into the specimen container

1. Collect in a dry, clean wide mouth container.
2. Collect in a clean bedpan
3. Collect on a clean wax paper or a newspaper
4. Collect with a plastic bag placed over the toilet seat opening or an empty waste basket.

Instructions for Stool Culture and O+P Collection

Stool Culture

- Collect one specimen per day.
- The Stool Culture container contains a pink/red solution (Cary Blair media)
- Make sure to write your name, date and time on the container.

Stool for Ova and Parasites (O&P) 1 specimen split into 2 containers provided.

- Collect one specimen per day which is split into 2 specimen containers.
- One container has Formalin (Yellow top with Clear Preservative.)
- One container has PVA fixative (Red top with Clear Preservative)
- The 2 containers mentioned above should each have a portion of stool submitted for the same date and time of collection.

Please follow this procedure for placing Stool Specimens into the specimen containers

1. Open vial.
2. Using the spatula, add approximately 3 spoonfuls of hard stool or 5 spoonfuls of soft stool to each vial.
3. It is important to sample areas of the specimen which appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If the stool is hard, sample small amounts from each end and the middle of the specimen.
4. Thoroughly mix the specimen and the liquid preservative using the spatula. Replace the cap and spatula. Close Tightly. Shake each vial until the specimen is well mixed.
5. Label containers with Name, Date and Time of Collection. Place containers in the original package.
6. Wash hands well.
7. Specimens should be submitted to the lab within 72 hours of collection.

10/11/06