

STOOL CULTURE

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Required specimen type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stool sample
Medical supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile container with spatula; • Biohazard bag.
General Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All specimens must include a double identification (first and last name of the patient and date of birth or medicare number). 2. The use of gloves is required when handling all biological specimens. 3. A valid requisition must include the following information : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and last name of the patient, date of birth or medicare number and gender. • Date and time of specimen collection and signature of collector. • Physician’s full name, signature and license number (or other qualified prescriber). • Any relevant clinical information. • Requested tests.
Patient preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Laxatives or antibiotics should be avoided for one week prior to the stool collection, unless otherwise specified by a physician. 2) Rectal enemas should not be performed one week prior to collection. 3) One stool sample is recommended and is sufficient for a diagnosis. However, if 2 or 3 samples are requested for analysis, they should be collected on 2 to 3 consecutive days. Specimens should be returned to the laboratory after each collection, in order to respect the stability of the specimen.
Specimen Collection Instruction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Collect stool on a dry and clean surface such as a bedpan, plastic bag, plastic surface (e.g., Saran wrap) or newspaper. Choose the method that is most convenient. It is important the stool not contain any urine; 2) Collect a small quantity of stool from each side and from the middle by using the spatula provided in the container. 3) However, if mucus or blood is present, sample should be collected from those areas. A spoonful of stool is sufficient for analysis; 4) Close the container tightly; 5) Identify the container: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. First and last name; b. Date of birth and Medicare number; c. Date and time of collection. 6) The specimen should be returned to the laboratory or physician’s office as soon as possible after each collection (if 2 or 3 samples are requested).
Additional information	N/A
Specimen Conservation and Stability	Each sample : 24 hours refrigerated