



Patient Instructions for Collection of Stool Specimens

1. Stools should only be collected once a day. If the physician orders more than one stool specimen, they should be collected on separate days.
2. The stool should be passed into a clean, dry container and placed into the appropriate vials. These cups may be obtained through the Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola Laboratory. Do not urinate on the specimen or in the collection container. Do not pass the specimen into the toilet.
3. If you were given a set of gray and pink vials with liquid in them, they are for the Ova, Cyst, and Parasite Exam. You should place stool in both vials. The specimens for Giardia Antigen Stool or Giardia/Cryptosporidium Antigen testing can be placed in the pink or peach/orange vials. Specimens for Bacterial Cultures are placed in the peach/orange vial.
4. Place some of the stool specimen into each vial until the liquid rises up to the red line on the vial(s). Do not discard any of the liquid present in the vial. If provided with a gray stool collection cup or white clean vial, just place some of the stool into the container and seal tightly with their respective lids.
5. Shake the vials, after tightly capping the lid. It is not necessary to shake the gray stool collection cup or white clean vial.
6. **Label each specimen vial or container with your FULL NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, and the DATE & TIME OF COLLECTION, AND SPECIMEN TYPE: STOOL.** Excluding any of this required information will delay testing and may require recollection of stool specimens.
7. If you have to collect specimens on more than one day, you may transport all the specimens to the laboratory after the final specimen has been collected, as long as it is within 72 hours (3 days) of collection of the first specimen.
8. If your specimen is collected in the stool collection cup, it must be transported within 2 hours to the Laboratory. Refrigeration is not necessary.

If you have any questions concerning these instructions or specimen drop off locations, please call the Ascension Sacred Heart Laboratory: (850) 416-7796