

Stool collection for ova and parasites

Instructions for our patients

Your doctor has ordered a laboratory test, which requires that you collect a stool sample. You can help ensure the accuracy of this test by following these instructions.

Important: Read all instructions before beginning the collection process.

Collection precautions

To ensure proper specimen collection and to avoid having to repeat the test:

- Do not wrap specimen in absorbent material (such as toilet paper), which may absorb organisms your doctor needs to identify.
- If your doctor has ordered multiple specimens, collect one every two or three days. No more than one per day.
- Make sure the specimens are labeled with your name, date and time of collection.

Collection of a specimen from an infant

Do not submit a specimen that has been in direct contact with a diaper. Place the peds-bag on the child to prevent urine from coming into contact with the stool specimen. It is best to line the diaper with plastic wrap to avoid absorption. You may then lift the specimen out of the diaper in the plastic wrap and place it in the appropriate container(s) as instructed.

Preparing for the collection

Some prescription and over-the-counter products may compromise the accuracy of the stool collection tests. They may cause transient disappearance of parasites in the stool, or they may cause the parasites to be more difficult to recognize. Therefore, prior to beginning the stool collection process, you should discontinue taking the following products:

- Antacids
- Antibiotics
- Antiparasitic drugs
- Barium
- Enema products
- Kaolin products
- Oily laxatives

Collection instructions

1. Pass urine into toilet. Place “hat” on rim of toilet and pass stool into “hat.” Do not let water or urine come into contact with the stool specimen.

2. An appropriate area of stool (i.e. bloody, slimy, watery) should be selected and sampled with the collection spoon provided in the cap of the container. Place enough stool in the vial so the liquid reaches the FILL LINE. Do not overfill. Mash the stool specimen until it is thoroughly mixed with the liquid.
3. Using second vial spoon, repeat step #2 with the other vial (if a second vial is needed).
4. Replace the caps on the vials. Be sure to screw them on tightly. Shake vials to assure adequate mixing.
5. Label the specimen(s) with your name, date and time of collection. Be sure to check the box on the label that best matches the specimen collected.
6. Discard “hat” and its contents unless it is to be used for other stool procedures.
7. Return the container(s) to the laboratory within two days of collecting the last specimen. Keep the specimen(s) at room temperature, protected from heat.

Contact information

If you do not understand these instructions or you have questions, please call one of the laboratories listed below. All laboratories are normally open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center
541-768-5059

Samaritan Albany General Hospital
541-812-4150

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital
541-451-7135

Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital
541-996-7176

Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital
541-574-1812