



## **Patient Information**

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### **Stool Specimens**

#### **What do I need to know about collecting a stool specimen (sample)?**

The quality of the test depends on the condition of the sample.

#### **How do I collect a stool sample?**

#### **COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS: READ COMPLETELY BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH COLLECTION**

If multiple specimens are to be collected, they must be collected on different days. Specimens collected less than 24hrs apart will be considered one specimen. Specimens should be collected in clean, dry container with tight fitting lid and transported to the lab immediately.\* Collection supplies may be provided by the physician office or picked up at the Outpatient Lab.

**Specimens collected from infants/diapers:** A formed stool may be taken from the diaper and placed in a clean, dry container with tight fitting lid and transported to the lab immediately.\* If the patient has diarrhea/watery stools, line the diaper with plastic wrap. Remove diaper with plastic wrap immediately after a bowel movement and transfer specimen to container. DO NOT wring out a diaper to collect a specimen. Never leave the plastic wrap against the skin for more than 30 minutes. Specimens brought to the lab in a diaper will not be accepted.

\*If immediate transport is not possible, the specimen must be refrigerated or placed on cold packs and transported within 2 hrs of collection. Do not freeze specimen.

#### **Collection of stool samples for bacterial, parasite, and molecular testing:**

1. Place the “stool” hat in the toilet. Deposit sample into “stool hat”.
2. There should be enough sample to cover the bottom of the container.
3. The sample must not have urine or water in it.
4. Do not use toilet paper to collect.
5. Label the container with your name and the date and time sample was collected.

6. \*If immediate transport is not possible, the specimen must be refrigerated or placed on cold packs and transported within 2 hrs of collection. Do not freeze specimen.
7. If your physician has requested that you obtain 3 stool samples, you must collect the samples on 3 separate days.
8. If you have received a barium x-ray, please wait 7 days or until the stool is clear of white, chalky material before collection your sample.

Any questions may be directed to the JMH Laboratory at 317-736-3485