

Laboratory Services - Instructions for Stool Collection

**About the
collection
containers**

Add stool sample to one or more of these containers, depending on the test(s) ordered:

ETM™ container (container with red fluid)

- Stool culture
- Fecal WBC

Protifix™ CLR container (clear top container)

- Parasite screens and ova & parasite exams **ONLY!**

Clean dry container

- *H. pylori* antigen **ALWAYS!**
- Rotavirus antigen **ALWAYS!**
- *C. difficile* toxins **ALWAYS!**
- Norovirus **ALWAYS!**
- Parasite screen, ova & parasite exam ➡ **If no Protifix™ CLR**
Stool culture, Fecal WBC ➡ **If no ETM™**

CAUTION!

Keep containers out of reach of children!

**Before collecting
the specimen**

- **DO NOT** use a laxative before collecting the stool specimen.
- Empty bladder completely. Stool must not come into contact with water or urine.

**How to collect
the specimen**

- Collect stool into a clean and dry disposable container, or plastic wrap placed under the toilet seat.
- **DO NOT** let water touch the specimen.
- Use a disposable cup or spoon to transfer stool into a clean dry screw-cap container. Transfer slimy, bloody, or liquid stool when present.
- Use the spoons under the cap of the Protifix™ CLR or ETM™ container to add enough specimen to reach the **FILL LINE**, and to mix up the contents. Transfer slimy, bloody, or liquid stool when present.
- Secure caps on all containers tightly.

**After collecting
the specimen**

- Wash hands thoroughly.
- Label all containers with:
First and Last Name, Date of Birth, Date and Time of stool collection.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Deliver your stool sample along with the lab order to the Laboratory as soon as possible. The delivery time requirements are different for each container. When delivering more than one type of container, use the shortest time shown below to assure the specimens will be acceptable for testing.

Clean dry container: Deliver to the Laboratory within 2 hours of collection for stool culture, within 4 hours for Rotavirus, and within 24 hours for *C. difficile* toxins. Norovirus specimens must be sent to the lab immediately or refrigerated and sent within 24 hours. Collected specimens must be refrigerated if there is any delay in transport and brought in a cooler with an ice pack if possible.

Protifix™ CLR or ETM™ containers: Deliver to the Laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Store at room temperature.

**Where to deliver
your specimen**

Concord Hospital Laboratory, First floor, Suite 1402:
Specimen Drop-off available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Memorial Patient Service Center, Memorial Building, Suite 102 (Concord Hospital Campus):
Monday - Friday: 6 am - 3:30 pm, Saturday: 7 am - 12 noon

If you have questions about specimen collection, please call Laboratory Client Services at 603-227-7050 for more information.

"Today's Laboratory... Ensuring a Healthy Tomorrow"