



## STOOL COLLECTION

## Patient Instructions

*Stool Culture*  
*Fecal WBC's*  
*Cryptosporidium*  
*Giardia antigen*

Obtain a C&S vial (orange cap)  
from the laboratory



### General Instructions and Preparation

1. Avoid using antacids, barium, bismuth, antibiotics, anti-amebics, anti-diarrheal medication or oily laxative one week prior to collection of the specimen.
2. Avoid contaminating the stool specimen with urine or water during collection.
3. Diapers are not acceptable for specimen collection. To collect a stool specimen from a child in diapers, line the diaper with plastic wrap, and transfer a portion of the stool to the collection vial.
4. You may use the same bowel movement to fill (1) C&S vial, and (1) Total-Fix vial.
5. Ova and Parasite testing may require additional vial samples from bowel movements collected on different days.
6. DO NOT refrigerate the specimen vials.
7. DO NOT use vials after the expiration date printed on the labels, or vials in which the solution appears cloudy or yellow.



**CAUTION:** Collection vials contain preservative liquid.

- Do not remove preservative liquid from vials.
- Avoid contact of solutions with skin or eyes. Should contact occur, flush with running water. If irritation develops, contact a physician.
- The Total-Fix preservative solution is POISONOUS. If ingested, call the local poison center or contact a physician immediately.
- Keep vials away from heat or flames. Total-Fix solution is flammable. Avoid breathing fumes.
- Keep out of the reach of children.



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## Collection Procedure

1. Collect the specimen in a clean specimen pan, plastic bag, or saran wrap placed over the toilet seat. Do not collect stool that has been mixed with water or urine.
2. Unscrew the top of the collection vial.
3. Using the plastic spoon attached to the screw-top, select samples from bloody, slimy or watery areas of the stool, if present. If the stool is hard, sample areas from *each end and the middle* of the specimen.
4. To one vial, add a sufficient amount of stool to raise the level of liquid to the fill line shown on the label.
5. Tighten the screw cap and shake the vial firmly to mix.
6. If you are filling a second vial from this bowel movement, repeat steps 3 to 5.
7. Label vials with your name, the date, and time of collection.
8. Put vials in a plastic zip-locked bag.
9. Keep at **ROOM TEMPERATURE**.
10. Deliver vials to lab within **72 HOURS**.