**Stool Collections-Chilton Hospital**

1. Fecal specimens should be collected in clean containers whenever possible. The standard laboratory feces cup or a clean large- mouth jar will suffice.

2. As a last resort, specimen can be collected from a diaper, etc. Place in a plastic bag to preserve freshness.

3. Specify test required:

A. Culture includes—*Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Escherichia coli* O157, shiga toxin 1&2, and *Campylobacter* antigen (*Yersinia* is only available upon request). Please complete and send “Laboratory Misc.” (CMH Graphics Arts #110-10 401).

B. Ova and Parasites—Multiple orders for ova and parasite should be collected on consecutive days. Use UNIFIX collection vials.

C. *Clostridium difficile* A/B D. WBCs

E. Rotavirus

6. Every attempt should be made to bring or send the specimen to the laboratory as fresh as possible. (Make sure container is tightly sealed.)

7. Upon arrival of the specimen, the laboratory will make every attempt to process fecal specimen within l hour of receipt.

8. If more than 1 test is requested on the same specimen, please make sure sufficient amount of stool is sent to the laboratory.

9. If there are any questions concerning collection and preservation techniques, please contact the Microbiology Laboratory at

973-831-5000, ext. 5670 (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

**Outpatient Stool Specimens**

1. When multiple tests are ordered on a stool specimen, the patient care technician (PCT) on duty must determine if there is sufficient quantity before the patient leaves the Access Center.

2. If PCT is unable to confirm whether specimen is acceptable, call the laboratory to inform them that a specimen for quantification is being sent in the pneumatic tube.

3. Have a technologist verify that there is enough specimen or quantity not sufficient for specific tests.

4. Be sure to ask approximately how much more specimen needs to be submitted if the quantity is not sufficient.

5. If specimen is sufficient, order tests in the computer.

6. If more specimen is needed, please explain to the patient approximately how much more specimen is needed. Give patient a specimen container and ask that they return.

**Tests Performed On Stool Specimens Are:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Test** | **Storage Temperature** | **Minimum Quantity Needed** |
| Culture and sensitivity | Ambient | Size of 2 peas |
| Ova and parasites | Refrigerate | Size of 4 cherries |
| Fecal WBC (Gram or Wright’s stain) | Ambient | Size of 2 peas |
| Rotavirus | Refrigerate | Size of 3 cherries |
| *Cryptosporidium* | Ambient | Size of 2 peas |
| *Clostridium difficile* | Refrigerate | Unformed stool |
| Occult blood (guaiac) | Refrigerate | Size of a pea |
| *Giardia* antigen | Ambient | Size of 2 cherries |

The larger the quantity the better. The laboratory cannot process dried-out specimens. Please have patients bring specimens to

Access Center as soon as possible.

Collection from diapered children can be facilitated by lining with Saran™ Wrap to capture the next stool specimen.