

TRAINING UPDATE

Lab Location: SGMC & WAH
Department: Core Lab

Date Distributed: 5/8/2017
Due Date: 5/30/2017
Implementation: 5/15/2017

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE REVISION

Name of procedure:
Stool, Guidelines for Timing and Testing SGAH.M24 v1 Note: this has been converted to a system SOP
Description of change(s):
Section 5: add note for C difficile Section 6: add lab test directory & SOP This revised SOP will be implemented on May 15, 2017

Document your compliance with this training update by taking the quiz in the MTS system.

Non-Technical SOP

Title	Stool, Guidelines for Timing and Testing	
Prepared by	Ronald Master	Date: 9/9/2009
Owner	Ronald Master	Date: 9/9/2009

Laboratory Approval		
Print Name and Title	Signature	Date
<i>Refer to the electronic signature page for approval and approval dates.</i>		
Local Effective Date:		

Review:		
Print Name	Signature	Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE.....	2
2. SCOPE	2
3. RESPONSIBILITY.....	2
4. DEFINITIONS.....	2
5. PROCEDURE.....	2
6. RELATED DOCUMENTS	3
7. REFERENCES	3
8. REVISION HISTORY.....	3
9. ADDENDA AND APPENDICES	3

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to define guidelines for timing and testing stool samples.

2. SCOPE

This procedure encompasses stool specimens received for culture and routine parasitology testing.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all staff assigned to microbiology to adhere to this procedure.

4. DEFINITIONS

None

5. PROCEDURE

The specimen of choice for isolating bacterial agents of diarrhea is the diarrheal stool collected during the acute stage of the disease. Pathogens are more likely to be present in large number during active or progressive disease. Formed stools are less likely to yield etiologic agents. Stool cultures are routinely screened for *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter*, *Vibrio*, *Aeromonas*, *Plesiomonas*, and *Yersinia*.

A single negative stool culture or ova and parasite exam may not be enough to completely rule out bacterial or parasitic infection, especially in light of persistent symptoms. Up to three specimens may be needed. *Accept no more than 3 specimens/patient without prior consultation with an individual who can explain the limited yield provided by additional specimens.*

Nosocomial diarrhea is described in the literature as the onset of diarrhea more than 3 days after the patient enters the hospital. In patients over 6 months of age, studies have shown that *C. difficile* is the only agent reliably detected in stools of patients with

nosocomial diarrheal disease and is therefore the only agent for which stools from patients over 6 months of age with nosocomial diarrhea should be routinely screened.

In children, rotavirus is the leading cause of nosocomial diarrhea, and this virus is the only agent for which stools from children with nosocomial diarrhea should be routinely screened.

There are two exceptions to the three day rule for nosocomial infection cultures.

- Screening for pathogens which cause food-borne outbreaks of diarrhea such as *Salmonella* or *E. coli* 0157 should be done when Infection Control personnel have identified a possible outbreak of diarrheal disease.
- Exceptions may be made in diagnosing the etiologic agent of diarrhea in AIDS patients or for follow up of previously diagnosed patients.

Specimen Collection:

- Specimens – feces should be submitted directly to the laboratory in a sterile labeled plastic container with a tightly-fitting lid within 4 hrs of collection.
Note: For specimen requirements for *C. difficile* testing, refer to the procedure C Diff Quik Chek Complete.
- Routine Microbiology testing - *Do not accept specimens from inpatients after the third hospital day, without prior consultation.*
- Parasitology specimens - *Do not accept specimens from inpatients after the fourth hospital day, without prior consultation.*

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Laboratory Test Directory, Adventist HealthCare intranet
 C Diff Quik Chek Complete, Microbiology procedure

7. REFERENCES

Gilligan, P.H., Janda, J.M., Karmali, M.A. & Miller, J.M. Laboratory Diagnosis of Bacterial Diarrhea. American Society for Microbiology, Cumitech 12A, April 1992.

8. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Reason for Revision	Revised By	Approved By
		Supersedes SOP M027.003		
000	5/1/17	Header: add WAH Section 5: add note for C difficile Section 6: add lab test directory & SOP Footer: version # leading zero's dropped due to new EDCS in use as of 10/7/13	L Barrett	R Master

9. ADDENDA

None