

**PATIENT INSTRUCTION STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION**

- St. Joseph Medical Center Tacoma, WA
- St. Francis Hospital Federal Way, WA
- St. Clare Hospital Lakewood, WA
- St. Anthony Hospital Gig Harbor, WA
- St. Elizabeth Hospital Enumclaw, WA
- PSC

- Label all vials with first and last name, date of birth and date and time of collection.
- Collect stool specimens as follows:
  1. Void urine into toilet.
  2. Place the plastic commode device on toilet (directly on bowl and underneath seat) then collect stool into it. **DO NOT LET URINE OR WATER TOUCH THE STOOL SPECIMEN.**
  3. Follow the specific instructions below for the testing you are having done.

- Bacterial Stool Culture Kit** [Acceptable containers include: Orange cap, Red cap, or Green (Cary-Blair)cap]
  - Submit a walnut-size portion of fresh stool in the container provided. If the containers above are not available, use a clean, leak-proof container and deliver the sample to the lab in less than 2 hours.
  - Each vial above has a scoop inside the lid. Using the scoop, collect a portion of the stool and place in vial until the liquid reaches the “fill line” on the label. Replace the cap/scoop and secure tightly. Shake vial until well mixed.
  - Do not refrigerate vial, keep at room temperature.

- Ova & Parasite Kit** [Acceptable containers include: Green (Ecofix) cap, Gray/Pink cap (2 pkg), Purple cap]
  - Submit a walnut-size portion of fresh stool in the container provided. If the container above is not available, use a clean, leak-proof container and deliver to the lab immediately.
  - The vials above have a scoop inside each lid. Using the scoop, collect a portion of the stool and place in each vial until the liquid reaches the “fill line” on the label. Replace the cap/scoop and secure tightly. Shake vial until well mixed. Multiple specimens for ova and parasites must be collected at least 24 hours apart, and each must be submitted immediately after collection or transported in the vial mentioned above.
  - Do not refrigerate vial, keep at room temperature until delivered to lab.

- Giardia Antigen Kit:** Orange capped vial with colored liquid (Cary-Blair transport media)
  - Submit a walnut-size portion of fresh stool in the container mentioned above. If the container above is not available, use a clean, leak-proof container and deliver to the lab immediately.
  - Stool should be fresh, frozen, or preserved in 10% formalin, SAF or in Cary-Blair transport
  - Refrigerate the specimen until delivered to lab.

- Clostridium difficile Toxin (CDiff) or Rotavirus:**
  - Submit a walnut-size (pea-size is acceptable for Rotavirus) portion of fresh stool in a clean, leakproof container. Container must have - no preservative. Stool must be loose, watery or soft only.
  - Refrigerate the specimen until delivered to lab.

- Swab:** Long Thin Swab (Culturette)
  - Remove cap with attached cotton swab. Dip the tip in fresh stool and replace into the holder.
  - Keep swab at room temperature.

Contact the main laboratory at St. Joseph Medical Center if you need assistance at (253) 426-6682 Option #2. Thank you.