

Collection instructions: Random stool specimens

Preferred option

- Securely place single-use commode collection system “hat” over the rim of the bowl, between the toilet bowl and seat.
- Pass bowel movement into collection system.



Alternative option

- 1) If able to use the commode/toilet:
 - If present, remove toilet bowl cleaners from the tank and flush twice.
 - Turn off water to the tank and flush again to remove water from the toilet bowl.
 - Securely place several layers of plastic wrap or newspaper across the toilet bowl under the toilet seat.
 - Pass bowel movement into plastic wrap or newspaper and immediately transfer to appropriate transport container(s).

- 2) If collecting from diaper (child or adult):

- Pass bowel movement into diaper and immediately transfer to appropriate transport container(s).

Note: Highly absorbent paper diapers will quickly soak up liquid stools. This can be alleviated by placing a piece of plastic (such as a plastic bag) inside the diaper. Alternatively, diapers can be turned inside out so that the outer plastic cover is next to the person's skin. This procedure can reduce stool leakage to outer garments.

Do not attempt to collect liquid stool that has been absorbed into the diaper fibers; these specimens are unacceptable to submit to the laboratory.

Additional instructions

- Follow instructions (next page) for placing stool specimen into appropriate transfer container(s).
- Deliver stool specimens to the laboratory or appropriate Beaumont Service Center as soon as possible.
- Dried stool specimens are not acceptable for testing.

Important: For optimal test results, please note the following:

- Do not allow urine to contaminate the stool specimen.
- Never take the stool specimen from the toilet bowl or toilet water.
- Do not place toilet paper into the specimen collection system or transport containers.
- Do not take laxatives before collecting the stool specimen.

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- Delay stool collection for seven days if:
 - you have taken anti-diarrheals (e.g. Pepto-Bismol or Immodium)
 - you have taken antibiotics
 - you have taken barium, oil or magnesium compounds
- If you have taken barium, oil or magnesium compounds, certain tests ordered by your physician may require multiple stool specimens:
 - Fecal occult blood testing (refer to additional instructions)
 - Stool culture testing (submit only one stool specimen each day)

Acceptable containers for stool collection

Placing a stool specimen into appropriate transfer containers

- Your health care provider will place a number in the box next to the correct container(s) at right to indicate how many of each type of container are required for the test(s) your physician ordered.
- Place stool specimen into required container(s), using the instructions next to each type of container.

Note: If more than one type of container is needed, it is important to place the stool specimen into each transport container in the order (top to bottom) as shown.

- a. Example: You need all three transport containers (Orange, then Orange PARA-PAK® C&S then Red)
 - b. Example: You need only the orange and red transport containers (Orange then Red)
- Label each transfer container with first and last name, date of birth, date and time of collection

For more information or questions, please contact Customer Service at 800-551-0488.

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Sterile container (no preservative) – Orange

- Using a disposable plastic spoon (or suitable alternative), transfer at least a walnut-sized portion of stool into the container.
- Securely tighten the lid.
- Storage conditions after collection:



- Refrigeration: Quantity _____
- Frozen: Quantity _____
- Room temperature: Quantity _____

PARA-PAK® C&S (preservative) – Orange

- Using the spork attached to the lid, continue to transfer stool into the container until the liquid reaches the red fill line.
- Securely tighten the lid.
- Mix well until no solid pieces remain.
- Refrigerate until transport (never freeze)



- Transport to physician office or testing site within 24 hours.
- Room temperature for 24 hours is an acceptable alternative.

SAF (formalin – preservative) – Red

- Using the spork attached to the lid, continue to transfer stool into the container until the liquid reached the red fill line.
- Securely tighten the lid.
- Mix well until no solid pieces remain.
- Refrigerate until transport (never freeze)



- Transport to physician office or testing site within 24 hours.
- Room temperature for 24 hours is an acceptable alternative.