

Stool collection for culture

Instructions for our patients

Your doctor has ordered a laboratory test, which requires that you collect a stool sample. You can help ensure the accuracy of this test by following these instructions.

Important: Read all instructions before beginning the collection process.

Collection precautions

To ensure proper specimen collection and to avoid having to repeat the test:

- Do not wrap specimen in absorbent material (such as toilet paper), which may absorb organisms your doctor needs to identify.
- If your doctor has ordered multiple specimens, collect one every two or three days. No more than one per day.
- Make sure the specimens are labeled with your name, date and time of collection.

Collection of a specimen from an infant

Do not submit a specimen that has been in direct contact with a diaper. Place the peds-bag on the child to prevent urine from coming into contact with the stool specimen. It is best to line the diaper with plastic wrap to avoid absorption. You may then lift the specimen out of the diaper in the plastic wrap and place it in the appropriate container(s) as instructed.

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Contact information

If you do not understand these instructions or if you have questions, please call one of the laboratories listed below. All laboratories are normally open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center
541-768-5059

Samaritan Albany General Hospital
541-812-4150

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital
541-451-7135

Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital
541-996-7176

Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital
541-574-1812



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continued

Collection instructions

A hat-shaped catching device placed over the rim of the toilet, gloves and sticks are provided for stool collection.

An orange-topped vial containing ETM is also provided.

1. Pass urine into toilet. Place the “hat” on the rim of the toilet and pass stool into “hat.” Do not let water or urine come into contact with the stool specimen.
2. An appropriate area of stool (i.e. bloody, slimy, watery) should be selected and sampled with the collection spoon provided in the cap of the container. Add sufficient stool to the red-topped container to bring the liquid level up to the fill line.
3. Stir the vial with the spoon along the sides of the container, tighten the cap and shake firmly to ensure that the specimen is very well mixed.
4. Label the specimen with your name, date of birth, date and time of collection. Be sure to check the box on the label that best matches the specimen collected.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water. If any liquid from the tube gets on your skin or in your eyes, flush with plenty of water.
6. Discard “hat” and its contents, unless the specimen is to be used for other stool procedures.
7. Keep the specimen refrigerated and return it to the laboratory within 24 hours.