

Stool Specimen Requirements

Routine Bacterial Stool Culture

Submit a walnut-size portion of fresh stool in a clean, leakproof container. If a delay of 2 hours or more for the specimen to reach the laboratory is anticipated, submit a portion of stool in a Cary-Blair[®] transport tube or enteric transport media. Do NOT refrigerate the specimen.

Ova and Parasites

Submit a walnut-size portion of fresh stool in a clean, leakproof container. 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 a preservative (supplied by PAML). Specimens may be refrigerated. If amoebic dysentery is suspected, transport IMMEDIATELY at room temperature.

Clostridium difficile Toxin or Rotavirus

Submit a walnut-size (pea-size is acceptable for rotavirus) portion of fresh stool in a clean, leakproof container. Refrigerate the specimen.

Routine Viral Stool Culture

Submit a walnut-size portion of fresh stool in a clean, leakproof container. Refrigerate the specimen. If a delay of 2 hours or more for the specimen to reach the laboratory is anticipated, collect a small amount of stool on a Dacron[®] swab and send in viral transport media (VTM). *A rectal swab in VTM is the preferred specimen for enteric virus cultures.*

These requirements reflect testing performed at Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories or Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. Requirements for testing performed at other facilities may vary.



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