



PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS: COLLECTING STOOL SAMPLE FOR CULTURE

The laboratory staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at 526-5305.

Patient preparation:

If you have had barium or mineral oil, wait until the stool is clear to begin collection.

Collection:

1. Pass stool into a clean, dry container. **DO NOT** let the stool touch water or urine.
2. Unscrew the cover from the orange-labeled vial. Holding the cover with the attached spoon, transfer stool from the clean, dry container into the vial.
3. Transfer enough stool to bring the liquid up to the red line on label "*Add specimen to this line*" (red) mark. Take sample from bloody, slimy, mucousy, or watery areas if present. If your sample is firm and does not have blood or mucous present, take your sample from the middle, the sides, and the ends.
4. Replace and tighten the container cap and mix well by shaking the container.
5. **Write the patient's name, date of birth, collection time, and date on the orange label.** Circle the picture that was most like the stool sample that you collected.
6. Refrigerate orange capped vial after collection. Deliver the vial to the Laboratory at New London Hospital at your earliest convenience. The sooner the sample is tested, the sooner the doctor will have your results. The test will not be affected by a delay in delivery.

CAUTION: DO NOT drink the solutions in the orange vial.

If solution has been ingested call a poison control center or a physician immediately.

New London Hospital Emergency Room phone: 526-5257.