Collection Instructions for Out Patient Stool Samples

Gastrointestinal Pathogen Multiplex Panel (GPMP), Bacterial Culture, Ova and Parasite, Clostridium difficile, Viral testing, and/or for H. pylori

Before Collection

- Use the appropriate collection container that has been provided for the test your physician has requested from the Laboratory.
- Ensure to label the collection container with your FULL First and Last Name, Personal Health Number or Personal Identification Number and Date of Birth.

About Collection Containers

- Caution: Ova & Parasite (SAF) collection container contains formaldehyde (a preservative), which is poisonous – do not ingest. Avoid contact with eyes, skin and mucous membranes. If swallowed, contact a physician or poison control center immediately.
- Do not discard the liquid or pour liquid into any other sample containers.

Collecting the Stool Sample(s)

- Wash and dry your hands.
- Urinate into the toilet if necessary.
- Sample can be obtained by placing sheets of plastic wrap over the toilet bowl leaving a slight dip in the center or by using a clean dry container to collect the sample. Do not let urine or toilet water touch the specimen.

Adding Stool to the Container

- If blood, pus or mucous is present, try to include this material in your sample.
- If stool sample is hard, collect sample from each end and the middle of the specimen.
- Transfer a portion of stool into collection container with the scooper provided on the lid.
  - Add enough stool sample to reach the ‘fill line’ for sample containers that have a ‘fill line’ (DO NOT OVERFILL).
  - For containers that have no ‘fill line’ ensure the container is 1/3 full.
- Sample must be added to collection container within 30 minutes

After Collecting the Sample(s)

- Replace the cap tightly and invert the tube 5-10 times to mix when there is preservatives in the container. If an empty vial is used, do not mix or shake.
- Wash your hands
- Label sample with your Full First and Last Name, Date of Birth and the Date and Time of collection and Personal Health Number.
- When you have completed the collection place the sample in the sealed plastic bag provided.
- Place the completed requisition in the outer pocket of the plastic bag. Do not place requisition inside the sealed section of the bag containing the sample.

Storage of Sample(s)

- Store sample(s) in the following manner:
  - Gastrointestinal Pathogen Multiplex Panel (GPMP) Refrigerated
  - Culture Refrigerated
  - Ova & Parasites High Risk X2 (collected on alternate days) Room Temperature
  - Clostridium difficile Refrigerated
  - Viral Testing Refrigerated
  - H. pylori Refrigerated

Delivering the Stool Sample(s)

- Bring the samples and the Physician’s request (requisition) to the Laboratory as soon as possible – preferably the same day.
- Check that the information on the requisition is correct and complete.

Samples that are not labeled correctly and/or do not have a completed requisition will NOT be tested

If you have any questions please call the VIHA Laboratory Call Center
250-370-8355 or Toll Free at 1-866-370-8355