

Bassett Medical Center
Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital
Microbiology Laboratory

COLLECTION OF STOOL SPECIMENS FOR MICROSCOPIC OVA AND PARASITE EXAM

1. The specimen should be passed on a clean, dry surface such as a bed pan or collection cup. The specimen must not be taken from the toilet or contaminated with urine.
2. The kit contains one vial of proto-fix CLR. Remove vial from bag and remove the white cap from the vial.

NOTE: The liquid in the vial is poisonous. Keep out of the reach of children and adults who might accidentally ingest!

3. Using the collection “spork”, collect scoops of stool specimen from areas of the stool that are bloody, slimy, or watery. If the stool is formed or hard, take small scoops from the ends and middle of the specimen. If the specimen is watery, a portion can be carefully poured into the vials.

ADD SPECIMEN TO THE VIAL UNTIL THE LIQUID REACHES THE RED LINE.

4. MIX the specimen THOROUGHLY with the spork and tightly twist cap close. Mix container thoroughly and completely by shaking until there are no lumps.
5. Be sure cap is tight. Label according to laboratory policy, (first and last name, Medical record number *or* date of birth, date and time of collection are REQUIRED) and send to the laboratory with appropriate requisition .

NOTES:

The specimen should be put into the preservative vial immediately after passage of specimen. The parasites, if present, are stable almost indefinitely in the preservative.

Always check expiration date printed on vial before using.

The ova and parasite collection kits are stocked on the supply carts on the nursing units, Clinics and Outreach Centers. (Store room number 400405)

It should be remembered that certain drugs and compounds make a stool specimen unsatisfactory for examination. Antidiarrheal compounds, antacids, antibiotics, mineral oil, bismuth and barium should not be administered before stool specimens are collected for parasitologic exam. Fecal specimens should not be collected for parasitic examination for at least 7 to 10 days after barium or bismuth have been given due to the crystal and particular compound interference with the microscopic examination. Mineral oil produces refractile globules that also interfere. Antibiotics may cause a temporary decrease or absence of organisms making reliable recovery impossible for 2 to 3 weeks.