



## Collection Procedure for Stool Culture and/or Ova and Parasites

- ✓ Patients using antacids, anti-diarrheal medication, or laxatives should allow seven (7) days before collecting specimens.
- ✓ Follow physician instructions for collection frequency. If none are provided, the laboratory recommends three specimens collected on alternating days, not to exceed 10 days. However, one specimen per 24 hours will be accepted for testing. If more than one specimen is collected per 24-hour period, only one specimen will be tested.
- ✓ Your kit should consist of two or three containers containing a liquid. Do not drink the liquid and keep out of reach of small children.
- ✓ For each collection, pass a small amount of fresh stool into a clean, dry container. Take care not to contaminate the stool with urine or toilet water. Do not pass the specimen directly into the tubes. If collected in a diaper, line the diaper with plastic prior to avoid absorption.
- ✓ Specimen must be transferred to containers within 30 minutes of collection.
- ✓ Open the tubes containing the liquid. Using the collection spoon built into the lid, or a wooden stick, place small scoops of stool into the container. Select areas that appear bloody, slimy or watery. Add stool to each container until the volume reaches the red line marked on the container.
- ✓ Carefully mix the contents with the spoon, then tightly twist the cap back on the container. Shake the tube vigorously until contents are well mixed.
- ✓ Fill each tube in the same way. Check all tubes to be certain they are tightly closed.
- ✓ Label each container with your first and last name and the date and time collected. Check the box on the label, which looks most like the specimen collected. Place the containers into the specimen bag and keep at room temperature.
- ✓ Thoroughly wash your hands and discard all supplies in the trash. Excess specimen should be discarded in the toilet.
- ✓ Return the containers to the laboratory with any accompanying paperwork within 24 hours. Collections done on multiple days should be returned at one time, but ensure that all containers are labeled with the actual collection date and time.
- ✓ Note: You may also receive additional containers that do not contain liquid preservative. Specimens added to these containers should be refrigerated. Please try to deliver unpreserved specimens to the lab within 30 minutes of collection.