





Stool Collection Guidelines

Your doctor has ordered one or more of the stool tests below. Specimen Requirements provides information on how to store and transport your specimen to the closest CPL location.

Collection Containers	Test Code	Test Name	Storage/ Transport Temp	Specimen Requirements	Deliver to laboratory within
 Cary-Blair Transport Media	6042	Stool Culture	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in Cary-Blair transport media.	24 hours after collection
	6053	Vibrio Culture	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in Cary-Blair transport media.	24 hours after collection
	6054	Yersinia Culture	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in Cary-Blair transport media.	24 hours after collection
	6118	E. coli 0157:H7 Culture with Shigatoxin	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in Cary-Blair transport media.	24 hours after collection
	6139	Shigatoxin	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in Cary-Blair transport media. If specimen cannot be tested within 48 hours, freeze at -20 degrees.	24 hours after collection
	3880	Stool Pathogen Panel by PCR	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh liquid stool in Cary-Blair transport media. <i>Testing will only be performed on liquid stools.</i>	24 hours after collection
 Stool Collection Container	6335	C.difficile GDH Reflex Toxin/PCR	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in a Stool Collection Container. If specimen cannot be tested within 72 hours, freeze at -20 degrees.	24 hours after collection
	4733	C. difficile Toxin by PCR	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh diarrheal (unformed) stool in a Stool Collection Container. <i>Formed stools rejected for testing.</i>	24 hours after collection
	4499	H. pylori Antigen	Refrigerated (2-8 °C) or Frozen (\leq -20 °C)	Fresh stool in a Stool Collection Container. To avoid false-negative results, no antibiotics, proton pump inhibitors, or bismuth preparation should be administered to patients for 14 days prior to sample collection.	Refrigerated: 2 days after collection Frozen: 3 days after collection
	4901	Osmolality	Critical Frozen	Liquid stool in a Stool Collection Container. Testing will only be performed on liquid stools. Do not add saline or water to liquefy sample. Freeze immediately.	24 hours after collection
	4908	Porphyrins	Critical Frozen	Random stool in a Stool Collection Container. Must be formed stool. Wrap container in foil to protect from light. Freeze immediately.	24 hours after collection
	4925	Electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium and Chloride)	Frozen (\leq -20 °C)	Random stool in a Stool Collection Container. <i>Testing will only be performed on liquid stools.</i> Do not add saline or water to sample to liquefy.	24 hours after collection
	5338	Magnesium	Frozen (\leq -20 °C)	Random stool in a Stool Collection Container. <i>Testing will only be performed on liquid stools.</i> Do not add saline or water to liquefy sample. Record time of collection.	24 hours after collection
	5711	Pancreatic Elastase	Frozen (\leq -20 °C)	Random stool in a Stool Collection Container.	24 hours after collection
	5725	Sodium	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Liquid stool in a Stool Collection Container. Do not add saline or water to liquefy sample. <i>Formed stools rejected for testing.</i>	24 hours after collection
	6242	Parasite Antigen Profile (E.histolytica AG, Cryptosporidium AG, Giardia Specific AG)	Refrigerated (2-8 °C) or Frozen (\leq -20 °C)	Fresh stool in a Stool Collection Container.	Refrigerated: 12 hours after collection Frozen: 3 days after collection
	4501	Fecal Calprotectin	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in a Stool Collection Container.	24 hours after collection
	7060	pH	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Fresh stool in a Stool Collection Container.	2 days after collection
	7040	Fecal Fat, Qualitative	Frozen (\leq -20 °C)	Random stool in a Stool Collection Container. Freeze within 1 hour of collection.	24 hours after collection

Collection Containers	Test Code	Test Name	Storage/ Transport Temp	Specimen Requirements	Deliver to laboratory within
 Pre-weighed Collection Container	4848	Fecal Fat, Quantitative	Frozen ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Obtain pre-weighed collection container from laboratory. Collect 24, 48, or 72-hour stool collection. Refrigerate sample during collection. If collection duration is not provided, it is assumed that the collection is random and alternative testing will be performed. The patient should be on a diet consisting of 50-150 g of fat per day for 3 days prior to the study. Non-absorbable fat substitutes such as olestra should be avoided prior to collection.	24 hours after collection
 O & P Preservative Kit Pink = 10% Formalin Gray = PVA	7000	Ova and Parasites with Trichrome Stain	Room Temp (15-25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Stool submitted in 10 % Formalin and PVA preservative kit. 1-3 sets may be ordered from your provider. Please refer to Ova & Parasite Specimen Collection instructions.	3 days after collection
	7020	Fecal Leukocytes	Room Temp (15-25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Stool or colon washings in 10% Formalin and PVA preservative kit. Leukocytes will be read from one kit collected for Ova and Parasites examination.	3 days after collection
 O & P Preservative 10% Formalin	4673	Giardia Antigen	Room Temp (15-25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Stool submitted in 10% Formalin Vial .	3 days after collection
	7050	Parasite Stain	Room Temp (15-25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stool sample should be collected in a clean, wide-mouth container, bedpan or on a clean newspaper or plastic bag placed over the toilet seat opening. Do not pass the specimen directly into the toilet or directly into the collection vial. Do not mix urine or water with the specimen. 2. Open the vial carefully. 3. Using the collection spoon attached to the cap, add enough specimen until the liquid reaches the arrow on the label. 4. Sample areas of the specimen which appear bloody, slimy or watery. If stool is hard, sample from each end and the middle of the specimen. No more than three (3) parasitology specimens are recommended over 7-10 days because shedding may be intermittent. Three (3) specimens will pick up 99% of parasitic pathogens. 	3 days after collection
	7051	Cryptosporidium Antigen	Room Temp (15-25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Stool submitted in 10% Formalin	3 days after collection
	7006	Microsporidia Stain	Room Temp (15-25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Stool submitted in 10% Formalin	3 days after collection