

Patient Instructions

Pocono Medical Center Laboratory

Stool Collection for Culture Clostridium Difficile Toxin and Rotavirus

What is a specimen collection?

Your doctor has requested specific testing on stool/fecal samples. A few collection requirements are listed below to ensure proper processing and testing of your specimen.

What instructions should I follow?

1. Obtain a collection container from your physician or laboratory outpatient-testing center.
2. To collect your stool sample you may:
Use a clean container such as a cut off plastic milk container (not wax).

Cover the toilet seat with plastic wrap.

For infants and toddlers, put a disposable diaper on so the plastic side is next to the child's skin. Remove the diaper as soon as the stool is collected. A DIAPER CONTAINING STOOL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY TEST. Plastic bags or tissue will not be accepted. Specimen cannot be contaminated with urine.

After you collect the stool sample, use a wooden tongue depressor to put it into the specimen collection container.

3. Testing for Clostridium difficile toxin, routine bacterial culture or Rotavirus requires a fresh stool sample that fills the container $\frac{1}{4}$ full or the size of a large walnut shell.
4. Print your name, and date on the outside of each container.
5. If your doctor orders the test three times, collect three specimens on three different days.
6. Specimen must be brought to the laboratory within **two hours after collection. (Refrigerate until delivered to the lab.)** A delay in returning your specimen may affect test results or results in recollection of the specimen.

If you have any questions regarding the stool collection requirements, you may contact the Pocono Medical Center Laboratory at (570) 476-3371 after 6 p.m. or (570) 476-3369 after 6 p.m.