



**LABORATORY SERVICES  
OVA & PARASITE  
SPECIMEN COLLECTION**

Read and follow these instructions for an acceptable stool specimen to be processed for Ova & Parasite testing.

**PREPARATION:**

- Wait 7 to 10 days after a procedure involving barium or bismuth and 3 weeks after gall bladder dyes.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

- A clean dry container designed to fit on the toilet for a fresh stool sample. Other clean plastic or glass containers may be used.
- A stool specimen transport "Total-Fix" single black capped vial. One needed for each day of specimen collection.

**Precautions: The contents in the Total-Fix vial is dangerous! Avoid contact with skin, mouth, and eyes.**

- If vial contents come in contact with skin, mouth or eyes, flush these areas with large amounts of water. If irritation develops, contact your physician immediately.
- If fluid from vial is swallowed, immediately drink 2-4 glasses of water and contact the Emergency Department or your local emergency department or Poison Control at 1-800-521-6110 and save any fluid left in the container.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. When more than one ova and parasite exam is ordered, collect only one specimen per day. Never divide a specimen into multiple kits and submit as separate collections.
2. Place the collection container on the toilet and collect the stool specimen, taking care not to urinate on it. A specimen mixed with urine, toilet water or oil cannot be tested. **Note:** For diaper collection line the inside of the diaper with a plastic material such as Saran Wrap and collect the specimen from the plastic lining.
3. Open the lid of a specimen transport vial being careful not to spill the contents. See precautions above if contents should spill on you. A pre-measured volume of liquid is contained in each vial and it must be mixed with a specific amount of specimen.
4. Immediately after collection, use the collection "spoon" under the lid to scoop small amounts of stool (including any bloody, mucoid, or watery sections if present) from the container into the vial. If the specimen is formed, take a portion from each end and the middle. The vial is properly filled when the liquid level reaches the ARROW pointing to a black fill line on the vial label. **DO NOT OVER OR UNDERFILL THE VIAL.** May be cause for rejection of the sample.
5. Use the collection "spoon" to break up solid or hard specimens into smaller pieces; then, replace and tighten cap. Mix vial well by shaking vigorously.
6. Wash hands thoroughly.
7. Fill in the information on the label with the patient's full name, date of birth, and specimen date and time of collection. Check the appropriate box for specimen description. A specimen that is not labeled will be rejected.
8. Place the vial into the plastic bag and close the seal.
9. Keep specimen at room temperature. Avoid extreme heat or cold. Deliver each preserved specimen and any lab requisitions to the hospital laboratory or one of the outpatient laboratory sites the same day of collection.